

Swiss say no to peacekeeping

BERN (AFP) — Swiss voters decided in a referendum Sunday against contributing troops to U.N. peacekeeping operations, the government said. A total of 57.2 per cent of the voters rejected a government-backed plan to contribute 600 troops at an annual cost of \$66 million, officials said. Parliament last year voted to make between 400 and 800 soldiers available to the United Nations at a cost of some \$71 million a year. But right-wing parties denounced the move as a violation of the country's traditionally cherished neutrality. The German-speaking majority was crucial in defeating Sunday's referendum, observers said. Swiss voters had already blocked United Nations membership for their country in 1987 in order to maintain their neutrality. In 1992, German-speaking Swiss tipped the scales against backing the European Economic Space Treaty, which would have linked Switzerland to the European Union. In another referendum this weekend Swiss voters refused to allow the naturalisation of young foreign residents brought up in Switzerland. They also snubbed a plan which would have made the federal government, and not just local authorities, responsible for defending Swiss culture.

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North Yemeni forces advance on Mukalla

Ibrahimi due in Beidh's new base

Combined agency dispatches

MEIFA HAGA, Yemen — Northern forces have closed in on the port of Mukalla, a key stronghold of southern troops, after consolidating their hold in the Indian Ocean coast separating Mukalla from the south's secessionist capital of Aden.

The northern assault on the region came as U.N. envoy Lakhtar Ibrahim, on a mission to find a lasting truce in Yemen's five-week civil war, left Oman for talks with southern Yemeni leaders in Mukalla.

Ibrahimi took off for the Al Rayan airport near Mukalla in Hadramaut province, a Muscat airport official said.

Mr. Ibrahim told reporters in Muscat that a ceasefire is "an urgent necessity so Yemeni brothers can consider how to set up a dialogue on the problems which have been put on hold."

Three ceasefires have been announced since June 6 but each has collapsed within hours, with northern and southern forces hammering each other for the renewed fighting.

Mr. Ibrahim said his meeting with southern leaders "will take place as soon as possible," following talks last Thursday with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northern leader, in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

"We have talked at length with them (southern leaders) and we will visit them to continue our discussions," Mr. Ibrahim added without giving more details.

A diplomatic source in Muscat said Mr. Ibrahim would travel to Mukalla "in the evening" on Sunday to meet Mr. Saleh's rival Ali Salem Al Beidh, after talks with Omani head of state Sultan Qaboo.

Mr. Beidh has been sheltering at Mukalla, 700 kilometres east of the south's main city of Aden, since the early weeks of the war.

Rival forces exchanged heavy artillery and small arms fire in the arid mountains and palm-fringed plains around this village, about 50 kilometres east of Mukalla despite three unsuccessful ceasefires last week.

The battle for Mukalla, capital of the eastern oil-producing governorate of Hadramaut, involved the closest ground combat apparent so far in a 5½-week conflict that has been a mainly medium-range rocket and field artillery war.

Northern forces now control most of the 550 kilometres of shoreline from here to Aden, the main stronghold of Mr. Beidh, which has been besieged on all fronts.

The south seceded May 20 from the four-year-old union of North and South Yemen, two weeks after civil war erupted in this country, at the tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Northern President Saleh, whose rivalry with Mr. Beidh triggered the war on May 4, has alleged that Mr. Beidh fled to Mukalla and is seeking to set up a rump state in the oil-rich eastern provinces, apparently with backing from neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

On Saturday, a northern leader accused the Saudis for the first time of supplying the south with "unlimited" weapons and money to fight the northern onslaught. There was no immediate reaction from Riyadh.

"Our forces are ready to mount an assault on Mukalla within 48 hours, once we have received the order from the military command in Sanaa," Colonel Abdullah Aliwi told correspondents in Maifa, west of Mukalla.

The first northern lines were around 55 kilometres from Mukalla, in a mountainous area overlooking the coastal town of Burun on the Arabian Sea. Another officer said the forward positions were established Thursday night.

The two sides fight artillery duels and southern warplanes carry out raids over the northern army posts, he said.

Three soldiers were wounded on Saturday as shells crashed around 20 metres from an army escort for journalists touring the region. Northern units hit back with rounds of artillery fire.

"If the southern bombardment keeps up, we will be forced to resume our advance toward Burun and Mukalla," said Colonel Ali Haidar Saleh, head of the army's 5th brigade which was fortifying its positions.

On the road from Ataq in the neighbouring oil province of Shabwa and Myafah, northern troops have total control.

But the route was filled with craters, which northern

(Continued on page 12)

Regent: Agreements for talks with Israel are based on Jordan's sovereign rights

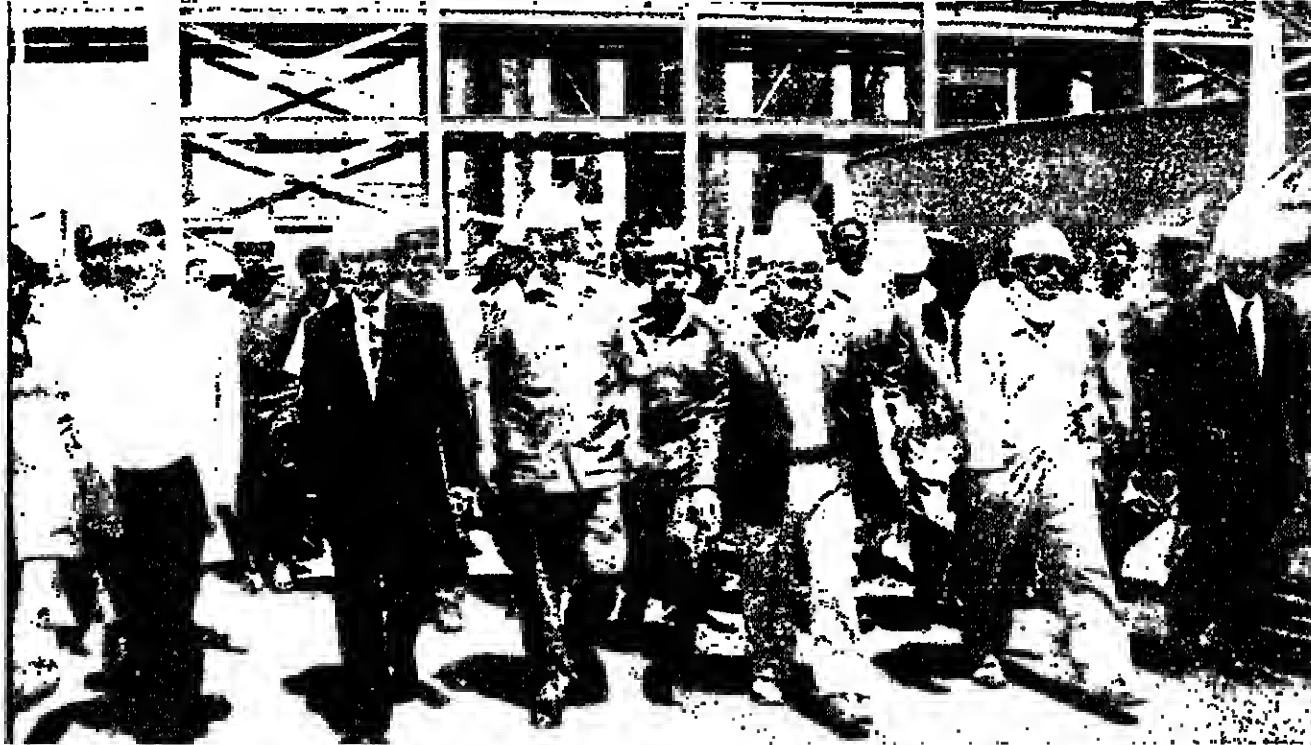
First phase of APC magnesium plant completed in Ghor Safi

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday the agreement that Jordan reached in talks with Israel in Washington last week to negotiate boundary demarcations, water rights and other issues were based on the Kingdom's sovereign rights over its boundaries and waters.

The Regent was addressing the gathering at a special ceremony at the Arab Potash Company (APC) plant at Ghor Al Safi marking the completion of the first phase of a magnesium oxide producing facility.

The Regent reaffirmed that the negotiations that are expected to begin with Israel next month on demarcating Jordanian boundaries, the Kingdom's water rights with Israel and other issues were within the framework of Arab coordination adopted by the Kingdom and in line with the principles of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Jordan believes in establishing a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East, said the Regent. The Kingdom's perception of peace emanates from a pan-Arab perspective based on its confidence in the Arab Nation, he added.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday tours the magnesium oxide plant in Ghor Al Safi (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

"The complete, coherent and clear vision of the Jordanian project and the Jordanian development agenda and vision of the Jordan Valley boundaries, starting from south of Tiberias in the north

and stretching to the Red Sea in the south starts first with delineating the boundaries of Jordan here and not in Washington," the Regent said, referring to the moving of the venue for the negotia-

tions with Israel to the region. However, one of the key elements for the negotiations is that "we start discussing issues of sovereignty in a serious drive towards estab-

lishing peace." "The issue of sovereignty in land boundaries, water and human resources are a common denominator in all titles

(Continued on page 3)

Abu Mazen: Palestinian state possible in 2 years

TUNIS (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Sunday that the PLO-Israel self-rule accord could lead to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in two years.

But this hinged on the Palestinians' performance during a transitional period, said PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen.

"A Palestinian state is even possible in less than two years," said Abu Mazen, who engineered the secret talks in Oslo and signed the September PLO-Israel accord in Washington.

"Our success or failure depends on our performance. Only Palestinians can lead to its failure," he told Reuters.

According to the PLO-Israel peace deal, self-rule in Gaza Strip and Jericho would be a first step to autonomy in all of the West Bank.

Negotiations on the final status of the West Bank should begin no less than the beginning of the third year. Abu Mazen said he doubted the transition from revolution to statehood could be carried out by the same figures who launched the Palestinian struggle in the

early 1960s. New blood was needed to continue the path he and other PLO officials started, he said.

Abu Mazen, 59, is one of nine founders of the PLO's Fatah faction in 1964. He was the main political strategist in Fatah, mainly focusing on studying the Israeli and Zionist mentality and promoting Israeli-Palestinian contacts.

"Since the Oslo accord, a new page has been turned in the Palestinian history, the past era of armed struggle and ideological factions has ended," Abu Mazen said.

"Since living conditions have changed, the titles of the new era are private economy, political pluralism and liberalisation, institution building, that is why a revolution mentality differs from the state mentality," he said.

Abu Mazen said he believed the current PLO leaders "who started the revolution young and enthusiastic men, but now older and wiser in their sixties," should step aside and give a chance to younger leaders to assume responsibility in building a state.

"This is life's nature, at this stage after our achievements since the inception of the Palestinian revolution the

time has come for us to act as advisors to those who need us," he said.

He has rejected any position in the Palestinian administration which will run Gaza Strip and Jericho area. He predicted clashes between the new and old leaderships in the struggle for a democratic Palestinian state.

"A new leadership is emerging, whether we like to admit it or not," he said.

Another PLO official said a future elected Palestinian council in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would become part of the PLO's parliament in exile to retain the link with diaspora Palestinians.

Sakher Habash, member of the PLO's Fatah Central Committee, said incorporating a local, elected Palestinian council in the Palestine National Council (PNC), was aimed at preventing the split between Palestinians inside and outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Future elections for a 180-200 member council in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be considered by-elections for the Palestine national council," Mr. Habash told Reuters.

"It is one of many considerations," he said.

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Deputies demand action to curb price increases

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament held a meeting on Sunday under the chairmanship of its deputy speaker and in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the Cabinet members.

At the outset of the meeting, several deputies complained of the rise in the prices of some commodities although they are exempt from the sales tax and said other commodities, such as locally-produced cigarettes, have disappeared from the local market.

These deputies, who included Farah Al Rahadi, Nazih Ammarin and Mohammad Al Zaben, urged the government to take the necessary measures to fight this phenomenon and to activate the role played by the civil and military consumer corporations to provide the

public with essential commodities.

The House then moved to discussing a decision by its Financial Committee on the Audit Bureau's 1987-90 reports recommending the establishment of internal audit sections at government departments and ministries among other things.

Some deputies suggested that the Audit Bureau's mandate be expanded to include all public corporations, stressing the need that the bureau's reports refer clearly to any financial violations by any government department and demanding that it present the House with a report every two months. Usually the bureau issues one annual report.

Other deputies also demanded that the bureau's

(Continued on page 12)

Ghali tells Arafat to be patient in wait for funds

TUNIS (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said Sunday he told Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to wait patiently for international aid to support self-rule while ways are found to avoid wasting the money.

Dr. Ghali told AFP he made the remarks in a 30-minute discussion here on Saturday with Mr. Arafat, who last week threatened to put off a visit to the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho until the funding was released.

Mr. Arafat was "half satisfied" with the result of a meeting Friday of donors, including the U.N., which agreed to release \$42 million to cover a deficit in the operating budget of the Palestinian self-rule authority (see page 12).

The meeting in Paris also confirmed a pledge to provide \$720 million this year for

specific projects, Dr. Ghali said.

"After all I have 20 years of experience of wasted aid in African countries. I want to avoid that at Gaza and later in all the occupied territories," Dr. Ghali said.

Dr. Ghali said: "I told him (Arafat) to be patient. It will be a slow and difficult process."

"I explained to him that the United Nations has a system of extremely serious accountability, and he must take account of this fact if he wants to take part," the U.N. chief said.

He also told Mr. Arafat: "You are used to working within the framework of a liberation movement, now you must work within the framework of an international organisation, and adapt to this new situation."

Dr. Ghali said he informed Mr. Arafat of the appointment of Norwegian Ambassador Terje Rød Larsen as

U.N. aid coordinator for the self-rule enclaves.

Mr. Larsen will be based in Gaza City and will also coordinate with other donors. "My problem is to avoid duplicating jobs ... it is very important to synchronise flows of aid," Dr. Ghali said.

The cost of establishing a Palestinian administration in Gaza and in the West Bank town of Jericho has been estimated at 168 million dollars in 1994. The 42 million dollars ordered released on Friday will be supplemented by an instalment of 91 million dollars that has already been pledged by donor nations.

The funding will be administered by ECDAR, the Palestinian Economic Development and Reconstruction Council, after donor nations appeared to be satisfied with the reliability of the new Palestinian administration.

(Continued on page 12)

Headaches brewing in Parliament for Majali government

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is up for turbulent times in its relations with the legislature but most analysts believe the government will survive the headache.

Two days after Dr. Majali introduced a major Cabinet reshuffle, 42 deputies met to discuss a request to withhold confidence from the government. That the request was made, analysts say, portends continued trouble for the government in the House. And that it was shelved shows that this discontent will not amount to more than a nuisance with which the government will

have to live.

Many deputies hold the prime minister responsible for this tension, though others say some deputies have personal reasons for opposing the government.

Parliamentary sources say the mistake Dr. Majali made when he reversed his earlier decision to exclude deputies from the Cabinet was his "neglect" of the parliamentary blocs. Dr. Majali brought 10 deputies into his team but all of them were chosen for their personal standing. None of the five blocs was approached though the government now includes members of four of them.

Only the Islamic Action Front (IAF) is not represented. The government though includes an Islam-

ist, Mohammad Thneibat, from outside the House.

Some deputies see this as "disregard" for the institutions of the House. Others contend that by circumventing the blocs, the government was trying to split them and cite the resignation of three members of the National Action Front, headed by Deputy Abdul Hadi Al Majali, as an example of the impact the reshuffle has had and is likely to continue to have on the cohesion of the parliamentary groups.

"Dr. Majali did not enter the House from the door," IAF bloc spokesman Hamzeh Mansour said.

As a result, a prominent member of the House expects that the blocs will undergo a major change in

NEWS ANALYSIS

out of the negotiations meant they were "not recognised." It is from this feeling that the anger stems, they say.

In addition to this, many deputies believe the government no longer has a mandate from the House

their performance and composition. Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi tried to defend the government's position by saying Saturday the Cabinet assumed the deputies it approached would return to their blocs and consult them. But deputies reject that saying recognition of the blocs requires formal consultations with them. Keeping them

due to the size of the change that was introduced to it. With more than half of the ministers changed (18 new ministers joined the 31-member cabinet), a new vote of confidence is required, "opposition" deputies say.

The government is not constitutionally required to ask for a new vote of confidence since its leader was not changed. The Constitution also says a vote of no confidence cannot be discussed during a parliamentary extraordinary session whose agenda had already been set by the Royal Decree that summoned it.

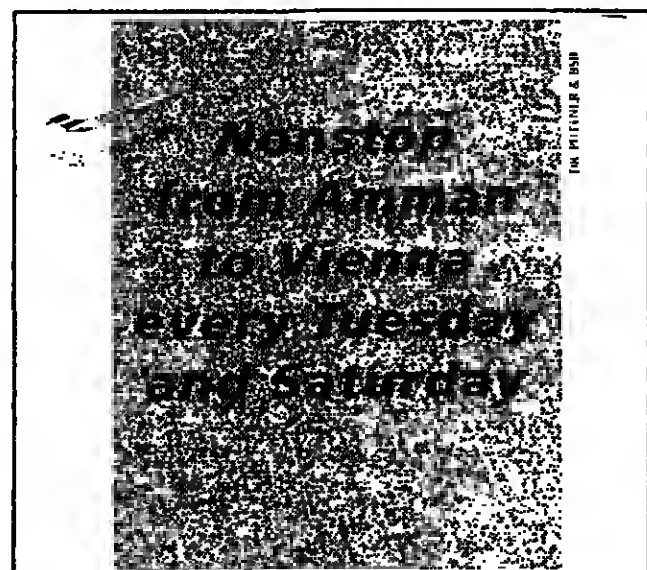
But the "norm" requires that the government of Dr. Majali seek the confidence of the House, those deputies argue. They say a

new extraordinary session during which the government would ask for the confidence of the House on the basis of a new policy statement could be called for.

But even some opponents of the government say such a move would only work to strengthen the mandate of the government.

With the inclusion of 10 deputies in the government and the pressure the new political developments in the country would put on some lawmakers, Dr. Majali could only walk away with more votes than the 41 he won from the House last year, some deputies maintain.

(Continued on page 12)



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Palestinian identity cards issued in Gaza

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestinian self-rule government has begun issuing identity cards to replace the documents issued by the Israeli military government.

"I am very happy to receive it. Many friends came to see it and to congratulate me," Abdul Karim Galban, one of the first recipients of the new document, said Saturday.

The new ID cards have a green cover with the words "Palestinian Authority" printed on it. Inside, a trim in the colours of the Palestinian flag lines the paper. Personal details are printed in Arabic and Hebrew.

General distribution of the new documents to all 750,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is to begin around June 21, said a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Palestinian police officials have said the distribution of Palestinian travel documents would begin around July 1.

Mr. Galban, a 31-year-old mathematics teacher, received his new card Thursday after he had applied several days earlier to have a mistake in his old document corrected.

Safian Zamour, 27, from the Sbari refugee camp, got his card Friday after he had applied for a renewal.

Mr. Zamour said the Palestinian-issued card came as a complete surprise. "At first I thought the Israelis had given me a green card," he said, referring to the green-coloured documents the army use to hand to Palestinian activists as a sign that they were barred from entering Israel.

Under Israeli military occupation, Palestinians were subject to immediate arrest if caught by troops without their identity cards. Soldiers often confiscated the documents to force passers-by to removing stone barricades or burning tyres during anti-occupation protests.

More policemen due

Hundreds more Palestinian policemen are crossing into autonomous Gaza this weekend from the border city of Rafah, Egyptian officials said.

Turkey closes border to stop Kurdish exodus

SALAHUDDIN (AFP) — Turkey has started closing its border to Iraqis to prevent them from fleeing to Iraq, a U.N. official said here Saturday.

"People from Turkey have told us that the Turkish army has begun cordoning off the border region to stop a new exodus," Ayman Gharabieh, a Jordanian official of the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) in Iraq, said.

Thousands of Turkish Kurds have fled fighting in southeast Turkey between government forces and the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) over the past months to settle in northern Iraq.

Mr. Gharabieh said the daily number of refugees from Turkey had recently diminished but described the trend as "not very significant."

"Eight people were killed Friday when Turkish artillery shelled a group of refugees

The Rafah-based information office of Egyptian Brigadier Yusef Abu Gheit put the number at 1,430, which could include up to 400 Palestinians from Yemen and Libya whose passage Israel previously rejected.

Brig. Abu Gheit's spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the contingent arrived in Egypt from Libya last Thursday and would be at Rafah Sunday morning. "It is our mission to move them in immediately."

The police are part of an agreement by which Israel handed over Gaza and the Jericho area to the Palestinians last May. Under the agreement, 9,000 Palestinian police will provide security for the autonomous regions, 7,000 from overseas and 2,000 from local residents.

Several thousand members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), the military wing of the PLO, have already arrived in the newly autonomous areas from the Palestinian diaspora.

The Abu Gheit spokesman said the troops heading in this weekend could be the last batch, because the Palestinians have a June 17 deadline. He did not explain, but PLO chief Yasser Arafat, head of the autonomy commission, is expected to go to Jericho about that time.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported that the head of the Palestinian police force, Gen. Abdul Razak Al Meguid, had left Rafah for Gaza and Jericho to "check security and the police deployment there" in preparation for Mr. Arafat's arrival.

At the Palestinian embassy in Cairo, official Mohammad Azab said the weekend contingent assembled at Port Said, the Egyptian city at the northern mouth of the Suez Canal. The policemen would move into Rafah from there, Mr. Azab said.

In Rafah, Egyptian Colonel Salah Osman said by telephone that some of the 1,430 Palestinian police already had arrived from bases in several countries by late afternoon Saturday.

Col. Osman, who works at the camp, said the police would have to wait for Palestinian officers to escort them across into Gaza.

about to cross the border," according to the Democratic Party of Kurdistan which is in control of northern Iraq.

The attack was seen as another bid by Turkish authorities to stop would-be refugees.

The UNHCR official did not confirm the report.

Turkish officials accused the PKK last month of masterminding the exodus of thousands of Kurdish civilians from Turkey to northern Iraq to make "the international public believe that Kurds were fleeing Turkish oppression."

On Tuesday, the Turkish government approved a four-month extension effective July 19 to the state of emergency introduced in southeastern and eastern Turkey in July 1987.

These regions are the principal fighting grounds of Kurdish rebels in a conflict with the Turkish authorities that has left more than 12,900 dead in the past 10 years.



WRECKAGE OF WAR: Residents of the popular central Aden Mallah quarter gape at the debris of a car which

authorities said was hit by a grenade in a north-Yemeni bombardment during the evening of Saturday (AFP photo)

University to train tour guides

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan and the Ministry of Tourism will cooperate in training tour guides through regular university courses, according to an understanding reached between the two sides Sunday.

Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan raised the idea during his visit to the university. University President Fawzi Gharabieh agreed to introduce tourism courses in the university's academic programmes as soon as possible.

Dr. Adwan said that there was urgent need for individuals with academic specialisations in this area in view of the importance of tourism to the Kingdom.

The minister attended the opening of the first training course for tour guides organised in cooperation with the University's Technical Services Centre.

"We are now entering a new phase fraught with serious challenges making it imperative on us to view tourism as an industry with priority for the national economy because it ensures national income needed for socio-economic development," Dr. Adwan told the audience.

"As public and private sectors operating in the field of tourism, we are required to work together in close cooperation and implement an integrated campaign for attracting tourists to the country."

He said a tourist guide was one of the basic elements for developing the tourism industry.

A guide, he added, serves as a liaison between the tourists and the country's culture and can best reflect the true image of Jordan's past and present.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is currently drawing up comprehensive plans for developing the tourism industry in all its aspects including the training of tourist guides, he said.

Running parallel with these plans are projects designed to ensure sustainable development of the Nabatean Petra tourist region, a scheme which later will be copied at Aqaba, Jerash, the Dead Sea, Ajloun and the desert castles, the minister added.

Ruling against teachers' union does not touch upon any existing bodies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Legal Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammo has said that a decision passed Saturday by the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution declaring as illegal the establishment of a teachers' union has no reflection on any effects on other existing unions and associations, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al-Dustour.

Commenting on the council's decision which was passed by a two-third majority, Sheikh Jammo said the Constitution did not touch upon other associations and unions.

This, he said, explains the fact that these unions and associations have been performing their duties and activities towards their members for a long time. Mr. Jammo said he did not think that there were any intentions to apply the council's ruling on

other associations. He stressed that the council members had based their ruling on the Constitution, which considers the Ministry of Education and the teachers working for it as different in principle and structure from other unions and associations.

The council's ruling was made in response to requests by the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and the prime minister.

The council said Article 120 of the Constitution has authorised the executive power to enact legislation in certain issues, including administrative divisions, appointment of public servants and terminating their services and defining their duties.

The article restricted the right to enact laws relating to public servants including their recruitment, termination, supervision and defining their duties and terms of re-

ference to the Cabinet, under regulations issued by the Cabinet and endorsed by the King.

Since the Constitution has empowered the legislative authority to enact legislation related to public servants, it has no right to enact laws falling under the jurisdiction of the executive power, the council said. Should the legislative power go beyond its authorities spelled out in articles 24 and 27 of the Constitution which recognised the independence of the three powers, then any law or ruling passed by the legislative power on such issues will be in violation of the Constitution. Whereas the teachers are public servants covered by the civil servants regulations under article 120 of the Constitution, the Council's provisions do not allow the passing of a law for teachers, it said.

Islamic scarves and ladies-only beach find customers in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Wafaa Tutunji is one of many Lebanese entrepreneurs who has found that catering to the needs of choosy, fashion-conscious women can be a lucrative business, notably when it means selling Islamic scarves.

A few ladies-only beaches have sprouted along the Lebanese coast and sea-side cafes hold "morning coffees" for women only — entertained by local singers and where dancing often takes centre-stage.

Photographic studios are also hiring female photographers for their shy, veiled women clients, namely young brides who consider it a sacrilege to be seen by men when they are made up and scarf-less.

Ms. Tutunji's luck changed the day she put up a sign on her boutique window advertising Islamic scarves for women, in addition to shorts and the latest fashion from Europe.

Business had been slow at the boutique in the fashionable Verdun neighbourhood of mostly Muslim west Beirut "until I started noticing women covering their head

with scarves," she told AFP.

For the past month Ms. Tutunji, a secular Muslim, has invested a small fortune into buying scarves from wholesaler Kamal Hamdan, a one-time street vendor of perfumes and fabric.

His shop is located on a street in the densely populated Bir Al Abed neighbourhood of Beirut's Shiite southern suburbs — a stronghold of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah movement whose influence began growing in 1985.

Shelves upon shelves are stacked high with all sorts of scarves — white trimmed with lace for young girls, satiny prints for young women and solids in dark colours for older ones — all bearing the "made-in-Italy" label.

"The fundamentalist woman is very fashion-conscious," Ms. Tutunji said as she bought an assortment of chiffon scarves for \$4.50 each which she planned on selling twice as much.

Mr. Hamdan travels three times a year to Italy to buy scarves, said shop assistant Layla Kobeissi.

Khadija Fashi and Ali Nada'ali run a boutique and factory specialising in Iranian-style clothing for women and young girls known as "manteaux" — loose overcoats that fall to the ankles in compliance with the Islamic dress code.

The most elegant ones are made of crepe de chine trimmed with guipure lace and sell for around \$130, while cheaper models come in Japanese silk. All the manteaux are in solid colours: mauve, black, grey, khaki and faded salmon.

"Many women now are giving up the strict chador (worn mainly in Iran) for manteaux because they are more practical," said Ms. Fashi.

"Besides, this is Lebanon, a free country, not the Islamic Republic of Iran," Mr. Nada'ali said.

The Ajram swimming pool along Beirut's corniche is open seven days a week for ladies only and boys under the age of eight. "It is a sacrilege for older boys to see women in bathing suits," argued manager Hala Harun.

Jordan ready to meet Oman need for teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is keen on maintaining the strongest possible ties with Oman and ready to provide the Arab country with teachers and education supervisors, Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said Sunday.

Speaking with a visiting Omani delegation led by Salem Ben Alawi, the minister said: Jordan was ready to examine Oman's needs for teachers in various specialisations and to facilitate their secondment to Oman.

Mr. Ben Alawi, who is leading a committee to select teachers for Omani schools, said that Jordanian teachers employed by his country are

dedicated people performing their duty most efficiently.

The meeting today is intended to selecting more Jordanian teachers and supervisors to help with the educational process in Oman and thus maintain the strongest possible ties with Jordan, he added.

Later the Omani team met the ministry's acting secretary general, Izzat Jaradat, and discussed a programme for seconding teachers.

A ministry official said later that Oman was hoping to employ up to 300 additional male and female teachers from Jordan for the 1994-1995 scholastic year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ambassador to Tashkent sworn in

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's newly-appointed ambassador to Tashkent, Walid Sa'd Bataineh, on Sunday took the office oath before His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in the presence of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

Minister briefs Gabed on Jordan's stands

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Sunday reviewed with Organisation Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Hamed Al Gabed the Middle East peace process and other Arab and regional issues as well as the situation in Yemen. Mr. Hassan stressed Jordan's interest in establishing a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East and briefed Mr. Gabed on Jordan's position on Yemen. Mr. Hassan said Jordan's position emanates from reconciliation accord signed in Amman last February, adding that Jordan calls for an immediate ceasefire between the warring Yemeni parties. Mr. Gabed praised Jordan's relations with the OIC. Mr. Gabed said the OIC was closely watching the efforts made by the United Nations and the Arab League and stressed the need for an immediate ceasefire. Mr. Gabed arrived here Sunday en route to Tunisia to hold consultations with Tunisian officials on preparations for the next annual OIC meeting and its agenda.

'More Palestinians seek Israeli nationality'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The number of East Jerusalem Palestinians asking for Israeli nationality has jumped 50 per cent this year, according to a council official. David Ephraïm, head of the census department at the Jerusalem municipality, told Sunday's Haaretz newspaper that on average 60 Palestinians a month had applied for Israeli nationality this year. In 1992, a total of 90 Palestinians sought nationality and 200 in 1993. Some 140 family requests have already been made this year, Mr. Ephraïm said. The process takes one year before a passport is granted and holders can vote and run for parliament.

Hariri orders own TV station closed

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese authorities have ordered a television station owned by Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri off the air after it broadcast a political speech by the prime minister in defiance of a government ban, a source said. The source close to the prime minister said Mr. Hariri himself gave the order to shut down Future Television when he saw the broadcast of a speech he had given. A spokeswoman for Future Television told AFP Saturday's order came after the station broadcast a "political information" during the evening current events programme Alan Al Massa. But she did not elaborate. The Surete General, which oversees state security, passed on the order after Future TV broadcast a political speech given by Mr. Hariri while inaugurating a municipal building in his hometown of Sidon, south of Beirut, the source added.

Algeria holds Koran competition

ALGERIE (AFP) — Algerian Minister Sassi Lamouri threw down a gilt-edged challenge Saturday to anyone managing to learn the Koran by heart — offering 600,000 dinars (\$17,500) and a medal to successful candidates. Addressing youngsters in the western town of Tlemcen, the minister said the prizes were intended to "encourage young people to know more about the precepts of Islam." Young Muslims usually learn the Koran by rote in mosques, where they recite each verse after an imam or religious official. The youngsters begin learning passages from the Koran in various religious associations from the age of six. It was the first time the Algerian authorities had made such an offer. Usually, books are handed out as prizes each year to youths managing to recite the Koran at ceremonies marking the 27th day of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Iran buries 1,500 soldiers killed in war

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has buried 1,500 soldiers killed in the 1980-88 war with Iraq after their bodies were found over the last three months on battlefields in the west of the country, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. A funeral procession for 750 of the men snaked through Tehran Friday while military helicopters showered the coffins with flowers while crowds chanted anti-American slogans.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Starcom
18:00 Beamsat
18:11 L'Ecole Des Pains
18:30 News in French
18:45
The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 The Nagay
21:10 The Coral World
22:00 News in English
22:30 G.P.
23:10 Top Cops

PRAYER TIMES

03:30 Fair
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35 Dhuhr
16:16 'Asr
19:46 Maghrib
21:21 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Association Tel.
637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Association Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel.
625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
624528
German-speaking Evangelical Capi-
gration Tel. 664195
The Lutheran Church Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-
ment of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions
will prevail with winds northwesterly
to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will
be northerly moderate and seas
calm.

Min./Max. temp. 17 / 30
Amman 23 / 37
Aqaba 25 / 37
Desert 15 / 34
Jordan Valley 22 / 36
Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 22, Aqaba 35 Humidity
reading: Amman 37 per cent,
Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Khaloud Klob 816715
Dr. Rana Abu Zia 894295
Dr. Sa'ad Ali 788285
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Neiroukh pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644943
Shameisi pharmacy 637640
Nafrosh pharmacy 625622
Najib pharmacy 617632

JBED:
Dr. Ali Al Omani 272032
Aqaba pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ahmad Tursali 900806
Khalifeh pharmacy 963417

EMERGENCIES

Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630541
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 680221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 775121
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 6024050
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 818133/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkheh Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2
Mallat, J. Amn 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/1
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 771013
Al-Basit, J. Ashrafieh 775111/2
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/983323
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/980560
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital 09/987332
IBRD: 09/987332
Princess Reema Hospital 09/779999

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia In-
ternational Airport Tel. (06)33200-
5, where it should always be ver-
ified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
17:55 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:00 Bangkok (RJ)
19:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:00 Moscow (RJ)
06:45 Moscow (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 Moscow (add) (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Moscow (RJ)
21:00 Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Istanbul (TA)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:15 Dubai (MS)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HIAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 400
Apricots 850 / 500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 680
Cabbage 200 / 150
Carrot 340 / 240
Cherry 1200 / 700
Cauliflower 300 / 280
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 60
Cucumbers (small) 180 / 100
Eggplant 160 / 180
Garlic 700 / 500
Lemon 420 / 280
Marrow (large) 80 / 40
Marrow (small) 180 / 100
Mushrooms 140 / 80
Orange 420 / 280
Onion (dry) 160 / 80
Sweet Potato 320 / 200
Pepper (hot) 350 / 250
Pepper (sweet) 350 / 250
Potato 300 / 280
Pumpkin 700 / 480
Tomato 140 / 80
String beans 550 / 480
Watermelon 130 / 80



GRADUATES: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath on Sunday presented diplomas to 45 graduates of the Princess Sarvath Community College. The graduation ceremony was attended by Senator Said Al Tal, who is also vice chairman of the board of trustees of the college. Higher Education Minister Rafea Soud, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Soud, the community's board members and teaching staff (Petra photo)

Queen Zein complex focuses on need-oriented training

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Development highlights an important new phase in Jordanian social development, according to Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The centre, which was opened by His Majesty King Hussein on June 4 to commemorate the late Queen, comes at a deeply significant time for Jordan because it concentrates on skills and knowledge among grassroots development workers and volunteers, through applied need-oriented training that will enable them to deal effectively with the changing needs of a growing and evolving society, said the Princess in a brochure introducing the complex.

Princess Basma said the complex plays an important role because it aims at raising awareness among officials and decision makers concerning development issues.

"They need our input in identifying and solving problems, just as we need to know where their poli-

cies can have the greatest impact on the largest number of people," she said.

Built on 4,700 sq. metres of a 10,000 sq. metre plot located in the north Hashemi area of Amman, the complex will provide social services where they were lacking, according to Mohammad Hassan, the director of the complex.

The Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex "has been established to contribute to a strategy for sustainable development which is based on self dependence and maximum utilisation of indigenous resources both human and natural," said the director.

Mr. Hassan told the Jordan Times that the complex is a national institution in the sense that it coordinates and cooperates with all national development organisations, both governmental (NGOs), according to their fields of operation and needs, and according to the latest techniques and innovative methods.

He added that it coordinates in assessing training needs and the needs of development in general and also in designing

appropriate training programmes.

"When we train people our aim is to develop their performance and to help them get the message of the development organisation through to the local community," said Mr. Hassan.

The complex combines two sections, the national training centre and a social development centre, including a kindergarten, that should serve local communities.

Mr. Hassan said that the training centre at the complex will initially operate on a national level, and in the near future it will aim at developing into a regional centre to serve the training needs of neighbouring countries.

Princess Basma in a final note in the forward said she was confident that the complex will be of great use to the Jordanian society as a whole, adding a valuable component to Jordan's move into the 21st century. "It is a symbol of the late Queen's advancement of the Jordanian people and a letter devoted to ensuring a better future for the beloved country."

Prices of frozen fish nearly double Yemen crisis has importers seeking alternate sources

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The price of frozen fish has almost doubled in the local market following the drying up of supplies from Yemen since the outbreak of civil war there last month, local traders said Sunday.

They said local importers were seeking alternative sources from Oman, Egypt and Bahrain, but were not having much success in securing supplies at reasonable prices in the face of rising demand from other countries, also hit by the almost shut-off in Yemeni exports.

Several exporters have defaulted on contracts signed with Jordanian importers and

argue that they are helpless in the market, where buyers from elsewhere in the region are ready to pay higher prices.

As a result, Jordanian importers were also forced to pay higher prices, which are reflected in the local market.

The average price for a kilogramme of frozen fish used to cost around JD 3 prior to the Yemeni crisis. Now it costs as much as JD 5.50 to JD 6.50 since very little quantities are arriving in the market, traders say.

The main base of Yemeni fish exports was Aden, which is now the focus of the civil war. Few fishing boats put out to sea from other Yemeni ports, and most of their catch goes directly to Egyptian pro-

cessing plants, according to the traders.

Egyptian and Omani "equivalents" to Yemeni fish are available but at higher prices. Even at that, suppliers are focusing on other markets where they could get better prices.

"At least two of my Egyptian suppliers are not even answering my repeated reminders," said an importer. "One of them has a signed contract with me under which he agreed to supply \$200,000 worth of six different kinds of frozen fish during the year."

"Only two consignments worth \$15,000 have arrived so far this year, and I don't think he could fulfill his contract," added the importer, who preferred not to be identified.

Kuwaiti fish is available in the Gulf market, but Jordanian importers are "not exactly enamoured with the idea of importing Kuwaiti products," added the importer.

"Some say that 'even if the Kuwaitis give it to us free, we won't take it'."

Coupled with the halt in Yemeni supplies is a growing demand in Lebanon, which expects a huge number of tourists and expatriates visiting home this year in the wake of improved security in the once civil-strife-torn country.

Unofficial estimates say that Jordanians consume up to 10,000 tonnes of fresh and frozen fish every year. Local

suppliers could meet only a small fraction of the demand. Commercial exploitation of the marine wealth at Aqaba is highly regulated, and the volume of Red Sea fish reaching the local market is also limited.

Importers are also zeroing in on Indian suppliers, whose exports to Jordan were so far done mostly through intermediaries in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

But in the absence of direct air routes from Indian coastal cities to Jordan, including Bombay, the hub of the Indian fishing industry, it is unlikely that Indian fish would be available at cheaper prices. Also, there is a scarcity of shipping service between India and Jordan.

14 people injured in Karak area bus accident

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fourteen people were injured, including one person listed in critical condition, early Sunday morning following a bus accident on the juncture of Thineh Bridge and Karak Road, near Karak, Civil Defence Department (CDD) and police reports said.

According to the report, the accident occurred when a bus driver exited the main road at high speed and swerved too far to the left hitting an oncoming bus.

A traffic official who investigated the accident told the Jordan Times that the driver at fault had one passenger, while the other bus was transporting 11 passengers.

"Luckily, the first bus was nearly empty, because it was an old vehicle, and its roof fell on the back seat during the accident, which would have killed anyone sitting there," the traffic official said.

Of the 14 injured 12 persons were rushed to Karak Military Hospital, one was

taken to Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein Hospital, and the most seriously injured victim was transferred to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman.

The attending doctor at Karak Military Hospital told the Jordan Times that four people have left hospital.

Suspected arsonist detained

In Ajloun, Sunday, police detained a man suspected of starting a fire on 600 dunums of land in Hallawa town, police report said.

According to the report, police and CDD were called to put out the fire which destroyed approximately 143 trees.

A witness told police that he saw a man with three dogs hunting in that area. The witness said he saw the man firing a rifle, and shortly afterwards he noticed smoke and fire.

Police released no information on the suspect.

The report said that three people ages 14, 17 and 50 suffered smoke inhalation while attempting to extinguish the blaze.

Also on Saturday, in Jabal Al Nuzha, a 22-year-old man was wounded in the leg after accidentally being shot, police reports said.

Fadi Mousa told police he was standing with some friends when one of his friends "jokingly" drew a gun and started shooting towards his legs.

One bullet struck Mr. Mousa. Police have Mr. Mousa in custody pending further investigation into the case. The victim did not press charges.

Seminar teaches safe handling of dangerous goods

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In view of increasing challenges to aviation, representatives of more than 13 civil aviation authorities in the region Sunday began a 5-day seminar on safe transportation of dangerous goods by air.

Deputising for the minister of transportation, Abdul Kader Dalkamouni, assistant manager of the Civil Aviation

Authority (CAA), said safety is an important issue which concerns all international and national civil aviation authorities.

"Our aviation society is facing increasing challenges, such as airport congestion, environmental protection, airport security, and increasing demands of capital investments," Mr. Dalkamouni said during the opening of the conference.

Mr. Dalkamouni pointed

to the economic threat that is causing an imbalance in the Third World countries, saying that these countries "face several economic and social development obstacles, and it is obviously shown in the number of demands versus the limited resources."

Katherine Rooney, regional representative of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in Montreal, said the event was an excellent opportunity for

all participants and for individuals who handle dangerous goods to benefit from what will be learned in the seminar.

"Our mutual aim is safety in the air for all concerned, and the need to transport potentially dangerous substances by air is recognised," Dr. Rooney said.

She said the ICAO presented rules that should be followed throughout the

world by the 183 member states of the organisation on international flights, and also, in most countries, on domestic flights.

"It is important that rules be followed in the first place by ensuring that everyone involved with dangerous goods knows the requirements and is encouraged to follow them," she said, adding that "violators will be prosecuted if detected."

More than 3m foreigners visit, transit through Jordan

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than three million foreigners visited or transited through Jordan during 1993, official statistics show.

The latest monthly bulletin of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Public Security Department (PSD) figures show that 3.1 million non-Jordanians and 1.09 million Jordanians entered the country during the year and 3.09 million non-Jordanians and 1.23 million Jordanians left the country.

The figures compare with 3.24 million non-Jordanians and 1.09 million Jordanians entering the country and 3.04 million non-Jordanians and 1.08 million Jordanians leaving the country during 1992.

The figures did not provide a clear split-up of visitors classified as tourists; but a general estimate put the number of tourists to Jordan during 1993 at nearly 250,000.

A good part of the travellers were pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, but no definite figure was immediately available.

A general split-up of the travellers by nationality showed that (1992 figures in brackets):

- the total number of arrivals and departures were 4.188 million and 4.119 million respectively (4.333 million and 4.083 million);
- the numbers of Jordanians entering and leaving the country were 1.089 mil-

lion and 1.128 million respectively (1.09 million and 1.079 million);

- 903,700 Egyptians entered and 890,900 left (930,700 and 816,800);
- 720,600 Syrians entered and 681,200 left (648,000 and 587,000);
- 460,500 Saudi Arabians entered and 433,400 left (413,300 and 413,100);
- 233,000 Iraqis entered and 245,900 left (570,000 and 585,000);

The sharp decline in Iraqi travellers to Jordan in 1993 was attributed to the imposition of a steep travel tax by the Baghdad government on all Iraqis leaving the country.

- 359,400 other Arabs entered and 348,600 left (300,100 and 271,800);
- 155,100 Turks (mainly Haj pilgrims) entered and

117,500 left (162,400 and 123,100);

- 41,100 other Asians entered and 38,300 left (39,100 and 33,800);
- 26,500 British nationals entered and 28,400 left (20,900 and 21,100);
- 106,000 other Europeans entered and 112,800 left (86,200 and 82,500);
- 42,500 U.S. citizens entered and 44,700 left (31,500 and 30,100);
- 9,100 other American nationals entered and 9,200 left; and

40,300 travellers not included in the above nationalities entered and 40,400 left (33,000 and 32,400).

The number of people entering and leaving Jordan rose sharply in 1990 when the Kingdom was the main route for third country nationals fleeing the Gulf war theatre following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

During 1990, the bulletin showed, 3,682,900 people, including 1,276,500 Jordanians, entered and 3,910,400 people, including 1,143,200 Jordanians, left the country.

Egyptians accounted for the bulk of the entries and exits, with 736,100 arrivals and 805,000 departures, followed by other Arab nationals (304,100 and 291,600) and Asians (excluding Turks) with 289,600 and 314,600.

The bulletin also showed that 1,259,920 of the 1993 arrivals and departures used the Jordanian-Egyptian ferry link during the year (644,526 arrival and 615,394 departures).

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Spanish film entitled "Femmes An Bord De La Crise De Nerfs" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION

★ Panel discussion entitled "Is Petra Endangered?" at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

★ Open dialogue with Fakhr Qu'war, secretary general of the Association of Arab Writers, at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

★ Dialogue with artist Abdul Ra'uf Shoman (with participation of critics Kifah Habib and Ghassan Maftah) at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of photographs by artist Khaled Sa'ad at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

★ Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handicrafts at Al Hayat Group showroom, Gardens Street, Ellayan Building (Tel. 687956).

★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Shoman at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Ameri entitled "Body" at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Fatima El-Helw at Goethe-Institut.

★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.

Regent stresses Jordan's rights

(Continued from page 1)

and topics of discussion when we refer to a just and comprehensive solution in the region," the Regent said.

Prince Hassan said that the work of the boundaries delineation commission will be followed by other committees in charge of security and other projects including the environment.

Lauding international cooperation, Prince Hassan said the new facility at the Arab Potash Company was the fruit of regional and inter-

national cooperation.

He voiced hope that such cooperation will take into consideration the priorities set by Arab experts in order to crystallise a formula for common Arab action.

Prince Hassan noted the contribution made by the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank.

The Crown Prince said the pioneering magnesium oxide

project will provide 1,000 job opportunities in southern Jordan. He added that the investment in this expansion exceeds \$350 million.

"Our objectives in the transfer of technology and knowledge and training of national capacities and the utilisation of the human resources as the prime participants in stability will not be achieved unless we concentrate on the unity of objective and destiny and national unity in the face of any attempts to undermine our national economic and development achievements," the Regent said.

Abu Mazen: State in 2 years

(Continued from page 1)

dination mechanisms between the self-rule Palestinian National Authority and the PLO in exile," he said.

Officials said the PLO was targeting Oct. 15 for elections to the Palestinian council which would act as a parliament for Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Elections would be carried out in self-rule Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In Jericho, another PLO official said the PLO was considering holding a referendum on self-rule ahead of the national elections due to take place under its agreement with Israel.

The referendum, aimed at giving governing bodies a mandate to self-rule, would ask voters among the nearly two million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip whether they backed the government.

"We are discussing the idea of a referendum. I talked to European consultants today to see whether it was feasible," Saan Erekat, appointed to oversee Palestinian elections by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters.

He said the PLO was still targeting Oct. 15 for elections to both local councils and the Palestinian council.

It was not immediately clear whether the Palestinian leadership was considering a referendum in place of October elections. Critics have accused the PLO of being autocratic.

ITALIAN COMMERCIAL MISSION TO AMMAN



Grimex

With the support of the ITALIAN EMBASSY and in close cooperation with the Chambers of Industry and Commerce, the Businessmen Association, the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation and the World Trade Center, Grimex Srl is organising a mission of Italian businessmen to Jordan in order to promote and strengthen Italian-Jordanian trade relations.

The delegation consists of eighteen companies covering various fields specially selected to meet the needs of the Jordanian market.

The opening session will be on Sunday, June 20, 1994. Meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Forte Grand Hotel — Jordan Ballroom.

Interested Jordanian parties are kindly requested to contact the following phone number: 696511 Ext. 438 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. as of Monday, June 13, to get an appointment with their Italian counterparts. Provided below is the list of companies participating in the mission and their specialised field.

List of Companies:

GEI

Audoli e Bertola

Sussetto

LO-MU

ISN

Cattaneo

Pistochini

Marzone

Euromeeting

Scardina

Carpegna & Sabbadini

Gonzales

Gediz

Dentafilm

Marcopolo

Cappa

Borello & Maffioto

Grimex Srl

Partially finished products for the artisan ice cream, production of Italian "Gelato".

Production of horizontal and vertical pumps and submersible series.

Spare parts for all types of earth moving machinery.

Manufacturing of mould-equipment pressing and special machines and plants.

Tubular elastic netting for hospitals.

Ready-made clothes, neckties and accessories.

Clothes and accessories for men and women.

Electronic appliances, airconditioners, radio and television sets (Hi-Fi), in addition to a second division that handles medical instruments plus lenses and glasses.

Deals with the promotion of scientific medical congresses and meetings focused on the study and the updating of several pathologies; it consists of three divisions: a medical division, an educational division and a technical division.

Fashionable stocks and shoes, gadget market and promotional products.

Chocolate and fruit jelly plus production machineries and equipment required for the production of chocolate.

Marketing and production of cooking equipment in (18/10) stainless steel for home and catering.

Computer software and hardware.

Construction company.

Residential buildings and industrial and commercial constructions etc.

Electronic materials.

Allots commodities for hygiene and disinfectants for hospitals, surgical salts and industry (food industry).

High definition self-developing X-ray for dental prognosis.

Recycling of waste, sewage and sludges.

New system recovers and transforms large masses of municipal solid waste.

Hairdressing materials, shampoos, dyes, hairsprays etc.

Sanitary and bathroom fittings, all kinds of paper (sanitary, napkins etc).

Foodstuffs and wedding dresses

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Nothing to suspect

FOREIGN ORGANISATIONS operating in Jordan have recently come under attack by writers and political activists who accused them, among other things, of spying and "stealing" the Jordanian mind. In particular, three German foundations that have recently been engaged in economic or political seminars, have been singled out. One political party leader went as far as questioning Germany's democratic credentials and the motives of the German foundations.

This phenomenon is not new in Jordan, nor is it exclusive. Different cultural centres were, in the past, targeted and labelled as colonial outposts bent on brainwashing people's minds. Western cultural centres were the first targets of demonstrations against the West and colonialism.

That these organisations are extensions of the social and political systems of their countries of origin cannot be denied. States, in their quest for better understanding and influencing the course of events in other countries, have always established cultural centres that acted as contact points with other centres. The phenomenon is not only limited to the powerful West. The West itself is in fact dotted with Islamic and ethnic centres.

Should we then look at each of those centres with suspicion?

The American University of Beirut (AUB) is such an institution. No one refutes that the AUB contributed to American understanding, and subsequently involvement in the Middle East. Should this be called spying? Or would we have preferred American involvement that is devoid of understanding? The AUB, while contributing to better American understanding of the region, also helped Arab politicians and intellectuals better understand and deal with the American culture. Furthermore, the AUB introduced the region to science, technology, sociology, anthropology and the rest of modern-day sciences. At one time the AUB hospital in Beirut was the best institution of its kind in the region.

Yet, while the fears and apprehensions of ordinary people can be rightly understood and can be attributed to frustration at the injustice inflicted by the powerful on the weak, as former Prime Minister and Senator Ahmad Obaidat justly put it, political and opinion leaders should use cool heads when addressing such issues.

We agree wholeheartedly with Edward Said's analysis of the role that Western cultural organisations played in furthering the cause of colonialism in the 18th and 19th century, but we believe that most of the Western institutions operating in our country carry no ill-intentions towards our people and that most of the individuals who head those institutions are true friends of Jordan. Furthermore, those institutions are neither imposed on us nor are they operating in the dark. Jordanians who cooperate with those organisations include people from all ranks and walks of life. And their combined impact is being felt in many spheres of our life. That those institutions are trying to influence our culture and our political thinking and to mold it after their own is certainly no sin. After all the Arab proverb says: He who treats you as an equal does you no injustice.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMING AS it is on the eve of a fresh tour of the Middle East by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. His Majesty King Hussein's talks with American President Bill Clinton, are bound to have beneficial effects on the Middle East peace process, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Sunday. The King's discussion of the Middle East with the head of the super power that wields influence on the region and sponsors the peace negotiations is bound to give a fresh momentum to the stalled talks on various Arab-Israeli tracks, said the daily. The King will reaffirm the Jordanian principled stands vis-a-vis all aspects of the peace process and will urge the U.S. administration to take more urgent steps to bring about a lasting and just settlement, added the daily. King Hussein's talks with Mr. Clinton are not only aimed at stimulating work towards a lasting settlement but are also designed to bolster U.S.-Jordanian relations in all fields and build a new foundation for much more fruitful cooperation, said the daily. The paper said that Jordan has proved by word and deed that it remains committed to, and working for, the attainment of a comprehensive peace that ensures all people's rights in the region.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that the meeting of the Higher Jordanian Syrian Committee that was scheduled to start in Amman Saturday should have been postponed in order not to give the impression that Syria is not happy about the recent Jordanian-Syrian accord. It was Syria which had been advocating the idea of holding separate talks with Israel but under a United Arab theme and it is not a secret that the Syrians and the Israelis were holding secret meetings as did the Palestinians with the Israelis at certain stages of the peace process, said Saleh Al Qallab. For its part, he said, Jordan did not reach a separate peace treaty with Israel but achieved some progress in the talks. Jordan has never left Syria alone in the field but Syria has never given up its own independent moves which were totally unpredictable and remained a mystery to the Jordanian government, added Mr. Qallab. The writer said the coming few months will reveal that Jordan has not been doing things behind Syria's back and it is hoped that the coming stage will witness real progress in the whole Middle East peace process.

Human Rights File

New ammunition for battle against smoking

By Waleed Sadi

IT IS interesting that in the ongoing tug of war between smokers and non-smokers on their respective, but opposing, "rights" to smoke or not to smoke, the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Baz issued recently a religious ruling (fatwa) that smoking is prohibited since it is "wicked" and contains many harmful substances. According to this contemporary fatwa, cigarettes and the like products can be neither used or traded.

While it is too early to tell whether this recently articulated religious ruling on the dangers of smoking will be observed and respected elsewhere in the Muslim World, its implications cannot nevertheless be excluded as farfetched. To begin with this Saudi ruling comes amidst the continuous conflict between smokers who wish to defend their "right" to smoke and even harm their health if necessary and those who are steadfast in their counterclaim that they have an "equal" right not to smoke by preventing "secondary" smoke from entering their lungs and in turn their bloodstream. The non-smokers' case was strengthened in recent times by a string of "medical" findings that cigarette smoking is addictive and that secondary smoke is just as harmful to health as primary smoking. Coupled with the medical unanimity that smoking per se is the biggest cause of cancer and heart diseases, it appears that the Saudi religious edict is well on track and substantiated by overwhelming and

unrefuted medical data.

This bold initiative by the Imam of Saudi Arabia calls for a response from the other religious communities in the Muslim countries. One would have thought that the Saudi fatwa would invite a broader debate with the participation of our own religious leaders so that Jordanians of the Muslim faith would know where the issue of smoking stands in religious terms. Instead, there was hardly a whisper about the subject. And when the report about Sheikh Ben Baz's ruling was mentioned in the local media it occupied a very insignificant place as if the topic does not deserve much of a comment or deliberation. Hopefully, this low key handling of the issue of smoking in Jordan would be rectified in due course when the religious leaders join the fray by putting their perspectives directly before the people to digest.

The government, through the Ministry of Health, had made its position known on where it stands when it comes to smoking. Granted, the Ministry of Health's crusade against smoking has been more rhetorical than anything else in spite of the fact that appropriate legislation was enacted. The involvement of the religious communities in the national and international debate on the dangers of smoking could tilt the balance in favour of those of us who would rather live their lives without smoke irrespective of where it originates. Still the wider human rights overtones of the subject need

to be also ironed out within the professional human rights bodies. The various United Nations fora on human rights should address this issue as well, in view of not only the diametrically opposed "rights" of smokers and non-smokers but also in the context of the overriding "right to life" human rights.

As long as the link between smoking and health is so much well-established and documented, it seems that the relevant articles in the appropriate human rights conventions and instruments need to be reconstructed with a view to giving the "right to life," priority over other human rights including the right of the smokers to smoke in public or even in private.

Human rights experts on the international arena have yet to explore the human rights dimensions of cigarette smoking. Yet the time is overdue for such an international human rights consideration. With so many international human rights "experts" addicted already to smoking the battle against smoking, as a violation of the right to life appears to be still an uphill struggle. Still, time is running out for the defenders of the rights of smokers as more and more medical and religious edicts get stacked against them. If the Saudi fatwa against smoking catches on as wildfire in other Muslim states, the battle against smoking can become that much closer to winning.



Jerusalem's great carve-up

By Sarah Helm

ON A ONCE tranquil hillside in the north of Arab East Jerusalem, dust swirls in the air as Israeli bulldozers forge ahead in the battle for Jerusalem.

In Shu'afat, Arab villagers look on as the diggers chew away at land that was taken from them for "public purposes" and is now the site of a new settlement, comprising 2,043 homes for orthodox Jews. Settlers are already arriving at the site. "It will be very beautiful to live here, and very cheap," said a Jewish bible student recently.

On Arab lands to the south and the east, annexed by Israel after the 1967 war, the bulldozers are also advancing. A ring road is under construction to link the expanding belt of Jewish settlements around the city. A 600-metre tunnel is to be cut under the Mount of Olives, in Arab East Jerusalem, within the next few months. And at Arab Beit Jala, Palestinian homes shudder as dynamite blasts the two tunnels that will link the Jerusalem settlement beltway with settlements in the southern West Bank.

Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its capital has never been internationally recognised; most countries still regard East Jerusalem as "occupied". Though settlement on occupied land is illegal under international law, most Israelis feel that the entire city must remain under Israeli sovereignty.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat wants East Jerusalem to be the capital of a Palestinian state. The conflict over Jerusalem, riven with religious and historical jealousies, is the dynamite that could explode the peace process.

The timetable of the Oslo accords states that autonomy for Gaza and Jericho will be the first stage of

Palestinian self-rule, and that the future status of Jerusalem is not to be discussed until 1996. The accords also state that neither side should take action to influence the final status of the city ahead of the negotiations by placing "facts on the ground."

Each side has been accusing the other of creating "facts on the ground in Jerusalem". But while the United States has withheld loan guarantees to penalise Israel for settling on West Bank land, no penalties have been imposed for building in Jerusalem.

"Israeli planners, are also continuing their policy of restricting Arab building in annexed East Jerusalem and the West Bank hinterland. Of the 18,000 acres of Arab lands, annexed by Israel in 1967, only 12 per cent is now available to Palestinians for development as a result of Israeli zoning laws."

Uri Lupolianski, deputy mayor and head of planning, said last week that Israel's aim was to increase the number of Jews living in Jerusalem by 70,000 over the next two years. This would mean a Jewish majority of 80 per cent in the city by the time negotiations begin. He predicts that many of the newcomers will come from West Bank settlements, which believe that their future is threatened by Palestinian autonomy.

"If Israel remains strong, the Arabs will accept that Jerusalem will remain under Israeli sovereignty," said Mr. Lupolianski, an orthodox Jew. "Jerusalem is not holy to the Arabs like it is to the Jews."

The latest building drive centres on filling in the gaps between existing settlements, extending a new ring

boundary to form "Greater Jerusalem," and creating a new north-south, east-west road network that will blur boundaries between Arab and Jewish settlements. The Israeli building schemes include:

— At least three settlements inside municipal boundaries on land expropriated from Arabs "for public purposes."

— Expansion of settlements inside the municipal boundary.

— A settlement block on West Bank land to the east of the municipal boundary, so-called Greater Jeru-

salem. In the city as a whole, with a population of 600,000, the Jewish majority is about 75 per cent.

"What Israel has achieved in Jerusalem is one of the greatest demographic changes in the history of the world," says Sarah Kaminker, a Jerusalem town planner who opposes the settlements.

Israeli planners, are also continuing their policy of restricting Arab building in annexed East Jerusalem and the West Bank hinterland. Of the 18,000 acres of Arab lands annexed by Israel in 1967, only 12 per cent is now available to Palestinians for development as a result of Israeli zoning laws.

For example, in Shu'afat, site of the new religious settlement, Arab villagers used to own a total of 1,303 acres. Of this, 300 acres, once used for grazing, was expropriated by the Israelis in 1970, zoned as a "green area" to prevent Arab building, and re-zoned for Jewish building four months ago. The village has now been given a building plan by the Jerusalem municipality for the remainder of its land. Of this, more than 40 per cent has now also been zoned off as "green."

"By the time negotiations begin, there will be almost no land left to talk about," says Khalil Tufakji, a geographer and member of the Palestinian peace team.

Many Israelis agree. Avraham Kahnia, the chief Israeli planner who oversaw the beginning of the building programme under Jerusalem's last mayor, Teddy Kolek, said this week: "It will be impossible for Mr. Arafat to claim East Jerusalem as his capital. He may be able to do something symbolically. But our building has made it impossible to divide the city again."

The Independent

Better ties with N. Korea not ruled out

By Barry Schwelb
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States is keeping the door open to good relations with North Korea even while getting ready to ask the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions against the isolated communist regime.

But Pyongyang must permit international inspectors access to their nuclear reactors and other facilities in a way that will enable them to determine whether North Korea diverted plutonium to make one or more atomic bombs before 1989, a senior U.S. official said Friday.

"They have an opportunity to put it right," said the official, who accompanied Secretary of State Warren Christopher to a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul. Concern over North Korea's programme overshadowed other issues at the meeting, which wrapped up Friday.

Mr. Christopher said the United States would ask the United Nations next week to level economic punishment against North Korea for denying international inspectors access to critical evidence about its nuclear weapons capability.

"It's time to move forward with the resolution," Mr. Christopher said after discussing the move here with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Clinton administration officials were still working on the specifics of their proposed sanctions resolution, which she said she expected to be "very tough" on North Korea.

In an interview on the "McNeil-Lehrer news hour," Ms. Albright said people should not think sanctions will take effect quickly after a U.S. proposal is presented.

"It's going to take days, if not weeks, to put this sanctions resolution together," she said, adding that it was "not time sensitive" now that North Korea has crossed a line by destroying evidence of its nuclear reactor.

Concerning in the objective, Mr. Kozyrev said at a

joint news conference "we cannot tolerate violations by North Korea or anyone else."

The administration took some encouragement from the North's invitation to former President Jimmy Carter to visit next week, viewing it as possible sign that the government there wants a face-saving way to defuse the tense standoff.

Administration officials said the former president, a skilled negotiator, was in a position to convey Mr. Clinton's views informally to North Korea. Mr. Carter will not carry an official message from Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Christopher endorsed a proposal by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to hold an international conference on North Korea's programme and its refusal to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The timing depends on how quickly the U.N. Security Council acts on the resolution.

A conference could provide a forum for considering ways to gain North Korea's cooperation with international inspectors and for offering diplomatic and other incentives.

So far, the administration's carrot-and-stick approach has failed to persuade North Korea to cooperate with international inspectors. Critics maintain the policy is naive, and that North Korea's nuclear intentions are obvious.

The conference proposed by Russia gives North Korea another chance to choose good relations with the rest of the world. But North Korea must fall into compliance first, the United States insists.

Mr. Christopher said the administration was working closely with Japan to win its support for sanctions. He also reiterated his view that China, while opposed to sanctions in principle, nevertheless was likely to abstain and not veto the sanctions.

"The time has come for a sanctions resolution and we will be pursuing that," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Carter's trip is also viewed as a potential source of information about North Korea's intentions. He did not ask the Clinton administration whether he should accept the invitation.

LETTERS

Garbage spoils scene

To the Editor:

HAVE YOU been to Dibbin National park, located in the west of Jerash? It is a mountainous area covered with many tall trees whose shadows give us comfortable place to spend hot summer days. Recently, I have been there and was disappointed to see a large amount of rubbish littered all over the ground. It is certain that this area has been selected as a national park because of its beautiful nature. Ironically, the beauty has caused this park to be one of the most squallid places in Jordan, because it attracts many people, most of whom seem to leave garbage at the spot after they enjoy their picnics. Of course people are destroying the beauty of this place.

The authorities should solve this problem. Those who visit such public parks should not leave their rubbish behind. Everyone has the right to spend pleasant time in national parks. But everyone has the duty to keep them clean.

Hishahko Wada,
Jerash.

Rwanda: A long way from stability

By Julian Bedford
Reuter

NGOZI, Burundi — Rwanda's rebel army is recruiting hundreds of Tutsis from refugee camps in neighbouring Burundi and revenge for thousands of Tutsis massacred in Rwanda looks like the motive, aid workers say.

The refugees are survivors of massacres of hundreds of thousands of Rwandas, most Tutsis, in a bloodbath following the killing of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6.

The mainly Tutsi Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) army is also being reinforced by Burundian Tutsis who are enlisting in the capital, Bujumbura, diplomats said.

Aid workers in refugee camps in northern Burundi told Reuters of buses driving to the perimeter of the camps daily, quickly picking up around 30 Tutsis and then driving away.

"One day they even drove into the camp," an aid worker said. "But that was too provocative."

The RPF is struggling to hold on to its gains in the civil war against Rwanda's interim government.

The all-Hutu junta appointed itself after Mr. Habyarimana

died when his plane was hit by a rocket that also killed the Hutu president of Burundi, Cyprien Ntaryamira.

The RPF launched its campaign by invading from Uganda in 1990 with about 5,000 men. Its main objective was to force the Hutu government in Kigali to accept the return of thousands of exiled Tutsis who fled previous tribal massacres.

Recruits, mainly from refugee camps in states neighbouring Rwanda, swelled the RPF's numbers to 14,000 today.

The RPF is now reported to be offering a "signing-on" fee of 10,000 Burundi francs (\$40). Most Tutsis are enrolling for free.

Some are leaving well-paid jobs working for the aid agencies in the camps in Ngozi province to join the RPF.

Jean Ngezamaguru, a Tutsi who left his Hutu wife in Rwanda, has not enlisted but understands the motives of those who have.

"After the massacres, it is understandable," he told Reuters. "They are the only ones who can guarantee their safety. So, yes, they go back to fight."

Two or three buses were reported to be driving away from Mubuga and Mureke camps in Ngozi province

each day last week.

Aid workers say the buses drive to RPF strongholds in neighbouring Kirundo province and the swamplands of southern Rwanda where the men are equipped and trained before joining the rebel army advance.

A rebel thrust from the swamps now threatens the town of Gitarama, where the interim government retreated 40 km south of Kigali. RPF supremacy in the area could also cut a vital escape route into Burundi for hundreds of thousands of Hutus who have fled a rebel advance from the north to Gitarama.

Diplomats in Bujumbura say the Tutsi-dominated Burundi army is turning a blind eye to the RPF's recruitment of local Tutsis.

One diplomat said: "The Burundians have never fired a shot in anger against another country. All they have done is persecute the Hutus."

"The army believes a stint with the RPF will bring discipline and resolve to the local youths."

Burundi has not disintegrated into civil war following the deaths of the two countries' presidents.

But both the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, are arming themselves



Rwandan refugees provide themselves with water in a polluted lake near the Tanzanian refugee camp of Bbenako (AFP photo)

Informants get Israeli ID cards, but still need guards

By Haitham Hamad
The Associated Press

DAHANIYA, Israel — The man with a deep scar across his forehead from an axe attack proudly waved his newly minted Israeli identity card, a reward for years of informing on fellow Palestinians.

"Now I am 100 per cent an Israeli citizen and I must say that I am very proud of it," said Saad Abu Rabaa, a blue-and-white Israeli flag flapping outside his house.

The feeling is not universal among Palestinian informants and their relatives, about 100 people in all, living in this refurbished town sandwiched between the Egyptian border and the newly autonomous Gaza Strip.

It is an uneasy limbo. The map of the self-rule accord signed in Cairo on May 4 defines it as an Israeli milit-

ary area. They are separated from Israel by an army checkpoint and likely to be murdered if they move back to Gaza.

About 25 families tried to return to their homes in the Gaza Strip after the Palestinians took over on May 18, residents said, but Palestinian police told them they were not welcome.

Mr. Abu Rabaa, 35, said he and other Palestinians who worked for the Shin Bet undercover security police got their new Israeli identity cards last month. He said he would continue his work as an informant, but declined to describe his duties.

"I feel much safer, I can move freely in Israel whenever I want," he said.

The Palestinians who made it to Dahaniya might be considered lucky. More than 800 Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel have

been summarily executed since the uprising against occupation started in December 1987.

Israel sought blanket pardons for informants during autonomy negotiations, but Palestinian officials say those caught will be put on trial.

Police commander Maj. Gen. Nasser Yousef last week condemned summary executions after the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed responsibility for killing two accused informants.

Human rights organisations investigating collaborator killings concluded that many resulted from family or personal feuds. Nevertheless, there is no question that Israel kept an extensive network of informants.

By far the largest number live in the West Bank village of Fabe, which is surrounded by an Israeli military

camp. The government has also moved some inside Israel, but many have failed to adjust, returning to the criminal behaviours that often attracted the police to them in the first place.

Mr. Abu Rabaa is a typical case, arrested for drug-dealing in 1986, he identified Palestinian activists in Rafah refugee camp and kept police abreast of their movements.

In early 1988, masked Palestinians burned his house and attacked him with an axe. He survived and was moved to Dahaniya with his wife and four children. Before that, the dusty village had been used to settle bedouin who could no longer wander freely across the border.

Mr. Abu Rabaa, now an employee of Dahaniya's village council, said Israel invested hundreds of thousands

of dollars in the village over the past five months. Changes include paved roads, a new school, a new village council, a telephone system and an alarm system linked to the army.

"It is a pure Israeli town," said Salameh Abu Sayel, a farmer who has lived here four years. "We carry Israeli identity cards and guns, what else do we need?"

Mr. Abu Sayel, 40, has no intention of returning to his home in Jebaliya.

"If I go back I will be slaughtered by the Palestinian police.... To them we are Zionists," he said.

But Hassan Hanoun, 65, worries that Dahaniya will be viewed like one of the Jewish settlements where 4,000 Israelis still live in the Gaza Strip, surrounded by troops. "We will be targets," he said.

With dynasty ebbing, Kennedy faces tough reelection bid

By Gretchen Cook
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — The last survivor of the generation of Kennedys expected to lead the country, Senator Ted Kennedy is now facing what he says may be the toughest political battle of his 32-year career in office.

The Massachusetts Democrat won his party's nomination last week for the November election but this time the Kennedy mystique may not be enough.

Looking at his landslide wins in the past five elections, some might dismiss Kennedy's distress call as a bid for more campaign funds. But recent polls show a majority of his constituents think it is time to give someone else a chance.

"The voters that revered his family name are dying out and the new transplant are more conservative now," said Democratic political consultant Fred Yang.

Mr. Kennedy, whose sexual exploits have been grist for the Washington rumour mill, is facing a formidable opponent in the well-heeled Republican Mitt Romney, a Mormon teetotaler who married his highschool sweetheart.

The brother of president John Kennedy and senator Robert Kennedy — both slain by assassins — the 62-year-old senator has worked to rehabilitate his name since his nephew William Kennedy Smith nearly brought him down with the celebrated West Palm Beach, Florida, rape case in 1991.

Mr. Smith was acquitted of all charges but the trial refocused attention on the senator's bar-hopping and skirt-chasing and rendered him speechless at hearings on charges of sexual harassment against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

Mr. Kennedy issued a mea culpa in a 1991 address in which he admitted to "faults in the conduct of my private life" and the following year he remarried — a move which could win him support among the many Irish Catholic voters in his state.

The recent death of his sister-in-law, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, has also demonstrated that Mr. Kennedy can still strike a tragic pose despite his bloated countenance and signs of indulgent living.

Mr. Kennedy has also earned some points in the national drive to reform health care, an issue he has long championed as head of the Labour and Human Resources Committee.

But a Boston Globe poll in mid-May showed that only 38 per cent of the voters polled believed Mr. Kennedy deserved to be returned to office, a number pundits consider remarkably low for an incumbent.

Ironically, Mr. Kennedy received good job approval ratings in that survey, which shows that voters still value

the amount of clout the legislator who ranks fourth in Senate seniority enjoys.

"By this time most of them have been voted out of office or retired," said Mr. Yang, noting however: "The whole country is in an anti-incumbency mood."

Republicans, who are gleefully rubbing their hands over six empty Democratic Senate seats and prospects they may win back a majority in the chamber, are also daring to hope for the Massachusetts seat.

"The Kennedy clout is legendary," acknowledges Howard Opinsky of the Republican Senatorial Committee.

He said however that the family dynasty was losing its hold in the socially liberal but economically conservative state now that Republicans have won some key local seats there.

The Kennedys always had voters believing that if a Republican got in he'd take away their social secur-

ity checks and other benefits. But not only have those things not happened, things have gotten better," he said.

Massachusetts pollster John Blydenburgh, whose survey also showed a majority of voters were ready for a change, agreed the polls might worry Kennedy but was sceptical about the senator's distress call.

"The toughest race of his career! Maybe, since he hasn't ever had a tough race and now he's got a little competition," said Mr. Blydenburgh, adding however: "It doesn't show that he's going to lose but it shows he doesn't have it in the bag."

Mr. Kennedy's call for support is likely to build up his war chest, and while much of that may go to campaign ads, he might kick back any leftovers to the party, which is fielding yet another member of the clan for Congress, his nephew Patrick Kennedy.

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Haiti declares state of emergency

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Haiti's acting President Emile Jonassaint, who is not recognised by the international community, Sunday decreed a state of emergency in the face of growing pressure for his regime to concede power.

He took the measure just 24-hours after new moves were announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton to further isolate Haiti's military leaders, on top of sweeping international sanctions imposed last month.

The sanctions are aimed at forcing the military to step down and allow the return of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a coup in September 1991. "I am ordering the commander in chief of the armed forces to be ready for any eventuality," Mr. Jonassaint said in a message to the nation broadcast on radio and television just after 2.00 a.m. local time.

"I am telling you clearly that history and our constitution... mean I cannot give in to threats and must use all means to defend our endangered nation," Mr. Jonassaint said very firmly.

Measures announced by Mr. Clinton include an immediate ban on most movements of cash into Haiti and the suspension of commercial flights.

Mr. Clinton, announcing the measures Friday, said: "The message is simple:

Democracy must be restored, the coup must not endure."

Speaking in Haitian Creole, Mr. Jonassaint said: "(Haiti) will be defended. Tonight I ask you, all quarrels and misunderstandings aside, to mobilise yourselves to defend our country."

"Haiti will not give in, Haiti will not bow to foreign pressure, Haiti will face up," he said, as he announced a series of unspecified measures to take immediate effect.

Mr. Jonassaint asked people to remain calm and to continue with their daily activities but to remain on call and be on their guard.

He said he was ashamed that he had voted for Mr. Aristide in the December 1990 elections, given that Mr. Aristide, after calling on Haiti to face up to the United States was "now calling on the United States to invade us and turn us into slaves."

"What have we done to the whites, that they should come and invade us? Nothing," he exclaimed.

Before and after Mr. Jonassaint's message was broadcast, Haiti's Act of Independence was read out.

Haiti proclaimed independence on Jan. 1 1804 after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte's expeditionary corps.

Mr. Jonassaint said he feels sorry for Haitians who have recommended military intervention. That was a possible reference to Mr. Aristide's premier, Robert Malval, who has publicly urged Haitians to disobey the rule of Mr. Jonassaint and army commander Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras.

Mr. Malval said last week that Haitians would more likely support the U.S. military than their own in the event of an intervention.

Mr. Jonassaint's message was broadcast after state TV finished showing The Longest Day, the movie about the D-Day invasion.

The army-backed government has been cautious to prevent a blatant provocation of foreign powers. However, radio reports have indicated the government was considering closing the international airport several days before U.S. and Canadian jetliners halt commercial flights to Haiti on June 25.

Both American and Canadian embassies have urged their nationals to leave before then.

Soldiers seized bulletproof vests, helmets and pistol holsters from U.S. Marines who entered the country on a commercial flight, the U.S. embassy said Saturday.

The seizure occurred Tuesday when as many as seven or eight Marines flew in from Miami. A source close to the Haitian army leadership who spoke on condition of anonymity said the materials had not been returned as of Saturday.

Embassy spokesman Stanley Schragar said the Marines were part of a normal rotation of guards at the embassy.

A bag that one of the Marines was carrying apparently broke in the airport customs area, revealing some of the equipment. Haitian security then seized some of the baggage and kept the Marines at the airport for some time.

Mr. Schragar, who downplayed the incident, said the Marines were back at work. The spokesman also said that a gun belonging to a U.S. embassy staffer was seized by Haitian soldiers and armed civilians at a roadblock Tuesday night. The weapon was later returned.

A gun and portable radios belonging to U.N. Personnel also were seized at the roadblock on the outskirts of the capital. Those weapons have not been returned.

The military Friday freed a Canadian agronomist who had been missing since he was stopped at the roadblock. Victor Edmond, 38, of Quebec had two teeth broken and bruises on his abdomen from severe beatings while he was held at a military station, the U.N. civil mission said.

The incidents are signs of growing tensions among foreigners living in Haiti as the U.S. and other governments freeze Haitian assets, revoke visas, halt trade and stop commercial airline service to the Caribbean country.

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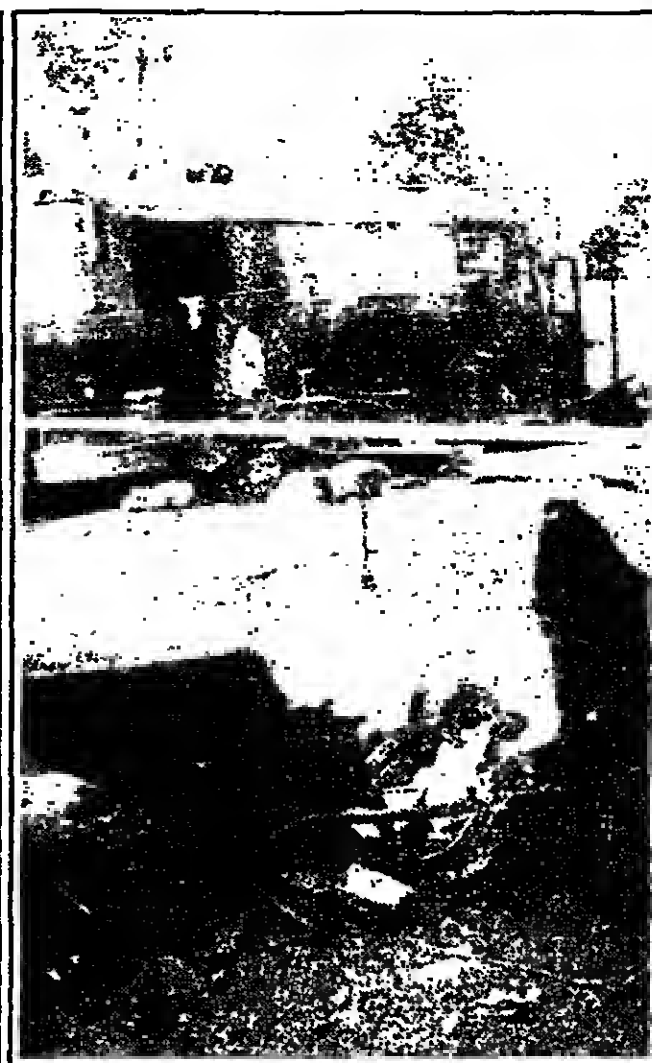
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The military Friday freed a Canadian agronomist who had been missing since he was stopped at the roadblock. Victor Edmond, 38, of Quebec had two teeth broken and bruises on his abdomen from severe beatings while he was held at a military station, the U.N. civil mission said.

The incidents are signs of growing tensions among foreigners living in Haiti as the U.S. and other governments freeze Haitian assets, revoke visas, halt trade and stop commercial airline service to the Caribbean country.



MEXICO BLAST: Debris from a car bomb litters the street outside the Carmine Real Hotel in Guadalajara, Mexico. The bomb exploded outside the luxury hotel killing at least five people and injuring 17 as a huge debutante party was ending (AFP photo)

China tourist killers sentenced to death

BEIJING (AFP) — Three Chinese men were sentenced to death Sunday for the murder of 24 Taiwanese tourists and eight mainland crew aboard a tourist boat, but Taiwan said the trial was an unacceptable "cover-up."

A correspondent for China's official Xinhua News Agency said the sentences were handed down at the end of the three-day trial of Wu Lihong, Hu Zhihan and Yu Aijun at the People's Intermediate Court in Hangzhou, capital of the eastern province of Zhejiang.

Xinhua said earlier that the three had confessed to theft and the murder of the tourists and crew.

The men should be allowed to appeal, but condemned prisoners in China are routinely taken out immediately after trial for execution by a pistol shot to the base of the skull.

In Taipei, government spokesman Jason Hu said Taiwan was still angry with China's handling of the incident, which has badly soured relations between the rival governments.

"We can't buy that kind of trial," he said. "It was set to cover up the truth and close the case."

Shi Hwei-You, deputy head of the Straits Exchange Foundation, the semi-official body assigned to deal with China, also expressed unhappiness.

"The procedures of the trial were full of defects," said Mr. Shi. "No key figures were present to testify, nor were suspicious points that Taiwan had raised been clarified."

"The mainland was eager to wrap up the incident as soon as possible," he said, adding that the effect on Taiwanese public opinion would damage the bilateral relationship with China.

Mr. Hu reiterated the Taiwan government's belief that more than the three condemned men were involved in the murders, although he declined to elaborate.

Last Monday, Taiwan's Military Intelligence Bureau said more than 10 renegade soldiers from China's People's Liberation Army had taken part in the crime. Two days later, Taiwan legislator Parris Chang said 10 PLA soldiers had been quietly arrested and executed for their involvement.

China dismissed Mr. Chang's allegation as "sheer fabrication."

The tourists were on a boat on scenic Qiantao Lake in eastern China when the attack took place on March 31.

The three were said to have robbed the tourists and then locked them in the hold of the boat before setting it ablaze, killing everyone on board.

The Taiwan government stepped up the pressure on China after families of the dead tourists complained that they had not been allowed to inspect the bodies before their cremation, and alleged that the incident had all the hallmarks of a crime which had been poorly covered up.

China at first insisted the 32 people had died accidentally and admitted a crime had been committed only after Taipei took reprisals against it, including a ban on tourism and cultural and educational exchanges and a threat to review economic relations.

Despite the continuing political dispute between the mainland and Taiwan, which Beijing considers a renegade province, Taiwanese businesses are huge investors in China.

Charles, Diana exchange a peck on the cheek

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and his estranged wife, Princess Diana, exchanged a quick peck on the cheek Saturday when they met at their sons' school for sports day. Princess Diana, driving a turquoise Audi, swept into the grounds of Ludgrove School in Berkshire, west of London, just before noon and had a picnic lunch with Prince William, 11, and 9-year-old Prince Harry before watching the whole afternoon of activities on the sports field. Prince Charles, who had participated in the annual trooping of the colour ceremony in London, arrived at about 3 p.m. in his Aston Martin. The two exchanged a cursory kiss and watched what remained of the events, then left in their own cars, with a royal protection car between them, at about 4.30.

Iiona Staller disappears with son

NEW YORK (AFP) — Porn star and former Italian legislator Iiona Staller disappeared with her 18-month-old son in the latest round of a trans-Atlantic custody battle, the baby's bodyguard said. Ms. Staller, 32, who is married to Richard Armao, 42, went out for cigarettes early Thursday and then took off with Ludwig Maximilian Koons, her son by painter and sculptor Jeffrey Koons. Her arrest has been ordered. Mr. Koons had defied an Italian court order in December not to remove the child from Rome. He has sued for divorce and custody of the child. Ms. Staller — who came to New York in January to fight the case — was granted visitation but was ordered not to be alone with the child. Mr. Armao was hired to accompany her during the visits. "If Ms. Staller has left the state with Ludwig, then it was Mr. Koons who started this vicious cycle," said Rita Warner, Ms. Staller's lawyer. Ms. Staller, 42, married Mr. Koons, 38, in 1991 after posing nude for him for photographs, paintings and sculptures. Her nickname means "little, cuddly one." Ms. Staller was elected to Italy's legislature in 1987 and served until 1992.

Boy allowed to quit medicine, despite death risk

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AFP) — A 15-year-old Florida boy was allowed by a judge Saturday to return home and stop taking the medicine that may prolong his life. The anti-rejection drugs for his two liver transplants cause headaches and irritation, said the boy, Benito Agrelo. "I'm tired of living in pain. I'd rather stay at home and live as close as I can to a natural life," the boy said. However, Florida health authorities oppose the decision. They monitored his condition for two weeks before deciding that he should be treated. On Wednesday, the Social Services Agency obtained a detention order and sent police to the boy's house in suburban Coral Springs with instructions to take him to a Miami hospital. But the judge met with Agrelo Friday and Saturday dismissed the detention order. Agrelo received his first liver when he was eight years old and his second in 1992. His mother says her son may live only one more month, but will be more comfortable.

Drunk driver ordered to keep photos of victims

HOUSTON, Texas (AFP) — A drunken driver who smashed into a family car, killing the parents and injuring two children, has been ordered to keep a photograph of his victims during his prison sentence. "He needs to see the people whose lives he took," said District Judge Ted Poe. Judge Poe sentenced 22-year-old Manuel Lopez to 10 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter Thursday. He said Mr. Lopez must keep a picture of the family on his cell wall. Mr. Lopez boozed all night and early morning on March 26, then after an hour's sleep, drove into the car while the family was on its way to church, according to prosecutors. The parents were killed. Their four-year-old son is paralysed and remains in hospital, and their five-year-old daughter broke her arm and pelvis.

Jealousy is possible motive in Sweden's worst crime

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Jealousy and a broken heart were possible motives for the bloodiest crime in modern Swedish history, a witness says.

Authorities said a 24-year-old army officer shot seven people to death Saturday with an assault rifle in Falun, in central Sweden.

Tommy Hedberg, a door man at the disco where the victims from the Voluntary Women's Army Auxiliary Corps were celebrating, said the gunman visited the site earlier in the evening and had an argument with one of the women.

"He pushed her down in a sofa, and we had to tell him to leave," Mr. Hedberg told the Swedish News Agency (TT).

The doorman said the army officer left, but later came back and was told he was not welcome. After that, the suspect, whose identity has not yet been released, departed.

Authorities believe he then went to his army base and retrieved an assault rifle.

The assailant then waited in a nearby park, authorities said. When six women from the corps, all in their 20s, walked towards the base, the army officer opened fire, killing five and injuring the sixth.

"It was an execution," police spokesman Bertil Jansson said.

Police shot and wounded the suspect in the hip after he allegedly killed two men who were passing by.

The officer was charged with murder and attempted murder, said police spokesman Sven Matsos. He has been ordered to undergo mental tests.

Bhutto to charge Sharif with fraud

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government is to launch criminal proceedings against her predecessor, main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, for alleged embezzlement and fraud, an official said.

Former Prime Minister Sharif's brother and two other relatives will also face charges in connection with a \$6.5 million loan from a state-owned bank.

Chairman of the Federal Anti-Corruption Committee (FACC), Malik Mohammad Qasim, told reporters late Saturday that the government would be investigating the affair based on documents from the National Bank of Pakistan.

Mr. Sharif's younger brother Shabbaz is leader of the opposition in the Punjab province provincial assembly.



Police and medics are on the scene where an unidentified Swedish army officer shot and killed five young women and two men who were on their way home after a dance in Falun. The gunman was wounded and arrested after a shoot-out with police (AFP photo)

Philippine kidnappers kill 16th hostage

MANILA (AFP) — Muslim bandits holding at least 22 Christians in the southern Philippines have tortured and killed a female teacher, bringing the known deaths in the hostage-taking to 16, a radio station reported here Sunday.

Manila-based DZXL, reporting from Basilan Island, where the hostages were being held, said the body of Carlita Guerrero had been discovered near the bandits' suspected hideout even as talks for the hostages' release continued.

Military spokesman in Manila could not confirm the report.

The bandits had massacred 15 other hostages last week to avenge a military attack on the Muslim fundamentalist group Abu Sayyaf on Jolo Island.

Ms. Guerrero's skull had been crushed and her clothes torn, the station said, adding that the government was still trying to negotiate with the kidnappers for the release of the other hostages, mostly teachers. They include one Catholic priest.

Earlier, a military report said that security in Basilan remained "unpredictable" due to reports that members of the Abu Sayyaf group were planning to conduct other bombings and kidnappings.

The fundamentalist group has been held responsible for bombings and kidnappings against Christians in the south over the past two years. Muslim bandits allied to

Abu Sayyaf kidnapped a large group of people, most of them Christians, in Basilan last Wednesday.

They swiftly massacred 15 and held onto 22 others, and are now asking for one million pesos (\$37,000) in ransom for their freedom.

Although local officials are negotiating for the release of the hostages, the military said they were still trying to track down the kidnappers.

Earlier radio reports from Basilan said the military had scrapped a 48-hour ultimatum, which expired Sunday, for the bandits to release the hostages.

The report also said that the bodies of the 15 massacred hostages had been recovered and taken to the local church to lie in state before burial.

The kidnappings and killings were widely seen as a retaliation for the massive military assault against the Abu Sayyaf which claimed the lives of 41 members of the shadowy group.

The Roman Catholic bishop in Isabela warned of a popular uprising if the government cannot capture the gang.

Also Sunday, a Muslim municipal official was critically wounded when six gunmen ambushed his vehicle in Isabela on troubled Basilan Island.

It was unclear whether the attack might have been linked to the kidnapping-massacre and the rise in sectarian tensions on this religiously mixed island, about 950

kilometres south of Manila. The island's Muslim-led government had given the kidnappers until Sunday evening to free the 20 women and one Roman Catholic priest.

"We are ready to die if government troops will move (against us). We will kill the hostages one by one," Mr. Sah said.

On Sunday, more than 3,000 people, many of them angry and in tears, turned out at Isabela's cathedral in heavy rain for the funeral of 14 of the 15 victims.

Placards reading "we demand justice for the massacre victims" and "only God has the right to take away the life of Christians and even of Muslims" hung in the cathedral.

In an emotional sermon, Bishop Romulo Dela Cruz warned that Christian extremists may commit reprisal killings if the government cannot solve the law and order problem.

"They (Christians) want me to say yes to their solution to what they perceive cannot be solved by the apparently inept military and uncaring civilian authority," the bishop said as his voice broke with emotion.

"They want me to keep my mouth shut and say nothing about their eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, kidnap for kidnap, life for life solution to put an end to the seemingly endless string of oppression against innocent Christian civilians."

Some signs that bode ill: Birds are disappearing, with two-thirds of all species on the decline and 1,000 threatened with extinction.

Destructive insects are developing resistance to most poisons, with at least 17 species unaffected by any insecticide.

The sea yielding about all

Russia's Choice becomes political party

MOSCOW (AFP) — The movement led by liberal Russian economist Yegor Gaidar formally declared itself a political party Sunday and approved a new name, Russia's Democratic Choice.

The name was approved unanimously by the 507 delegates to the party's founding congress, held in central Moscow and chaired by Mr. Gaidar, a former acting prime minister who initiated economic "shock therapy" in 1992.

The new party was being set up on the basis of the Russia's Choice movement, a loose coalition of progressive pro-democracy politicians created last autumn ahead of the December legislative elections.

The Russia's Choice bloc is the largest single movement represented in the lower house of the new parliament, the Duma, holding about one-fifth of the 450 seats.

Not all members of the Russia's Choice movement however favoured the creation of a formal political party, which Mr. Gaidar said should be a strong and united political organisation and no longer a "soft political coalition."

Russia's Democratic Choice will contest the next presidential and legislative elections in 1996 and ITAR-TASS news agency said the

results of a survey conducted earlier this month indicated that about one in five voters would back the new party.

The party supports democratic and strong pro-market reforms.

Meanwhile, hardline nationalist and Communist supporters plan to form a "national-Communist" coalition to supersede the present opposition which they accuse of excessive moderation, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday.

Edvard Limonov, president of the National Bolshevik Party, described a meeting held Friday at a venue in the Moscow suburbs as a "general rehearsal for a congress of the radical opposition and for a coalition of its two strands, national and Communist."

A statement passed at the meeting hailed the insurgents who attempted to overthrow the Russian government last October.

Mr. Limonov, a novelist who fled to the West in the 1970s during Soviet rule, said the meeting criticised leading opposition figures, such as former Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, who led the October insurgency, and ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, for "betraying the essential principles" of the struggle against the authorities.

Russians bid farewell to Germany with big parade

WUENSODORF, Germany (AP) — Russians opened their Eastern German military headquarters — once a secret, off-limits city — and said goodbye Saturday with a parade of troops, T-80 tanks and scores of armoured vehicles.

The parade included a tree-top-skimming flyover by MI-8 helicopters and drew more than 10,000 people.

It was strictly a Russian-German friendship festival. Neither American nor British military commanders were invited to the 66-square-kilometre (25-square-mile) base just south of Berlin.

U.S. representation was very low-key, with a few officials in the crowd but not on the reviewing stand.

A Russian officer said the

names of the U.S. and British military commanders in Berlin were on an initial invitation list, but his commander, Gen. Matvei Burlakov, crossed them off.

"Maybe he was offended that they refused to include the Russian in a joint farewell ceremony," said the officer, who said he would be dismissed from the Russian army if his name were given.

The Russians will have their final farewell ceremony separately, in East Berlin at the end of August during a visit by President Boris Yeltsin.

For that, the Americans, British and French will be invited, said Mr. Burlakov's press officer, Col. Dmitri Timashkov.

Some dream for a better world coming true, but many remain elusive

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dream of a world where nuclear weapons disappear, light bulbs last for years, bicycles outlast cars and people live longer is coming true.

The good news, some of it surprising on a planet tainted by pollution and shaken by post-cold war violence, is part of Worldwatch Institute's "Vital Signs 1994," released Saturday.

But overall, the planet is not doing so well, says Lester R. Brown, Worldwatch president and principal author of the annual compilation of trends.

"Of all the key indicators measuring the health of the planet, we have succeeded in

reversing the decline in only one — namely, the manufacture and production of chlorofluorocarbons" that deplete the ozone layer, he said.

"All the other key trends — carbon emission, deforestation, loss of species, population growth and soil erosion — are still headed in the wrong direction."

Some signs that bode ill: Birds are disappearing, with two-thirds of all species on the decline and 1,000 threatened with extinction.

Destructive insects are developing resistance to most poisons, with at least 17 species unaffected by any insecticide.

The edible creatures it can with the average available per person dropping.

Grain stocks are at their lowest level since the mid-1970s, even though there are hundreds of millions more people to feed.

The loss of tropical rain forests is exceeded by the loss of temperate forests extending far north of the equator.

The number of refugees is at a new high, 19 million, and world population is growing at alarming rates.

The AIDS virus has infected 22 million people, including 5 million with the disease, and no cure is in sight.

expectancy figures in the report have a downside.

Overall, life expectancy on the planet has gone from 46 years in 1950 to 65 years in 1993. Worldwatch credits increased food production, improved sanitation, expanded health care and successful childhood immunisation programmes for the fact that, on the average, world citizens can now expect to live 19 years longer than their grandparents.

But it notes that life expectancy in countries as diverse as Russia and Uganda is declining.

One encouraging statistics is the reduction of nuclear weapons, from a high of

69,480 in 1986 to 49,910 in 1992, this is accompanied by a 63 per cent decline in conventional weapons trade between 1987 and 1991, according to vital signs.

Some of the most glowing statistics relate to the sale of energy-efficient, compact fluorescent light bulbs, from 132 million in 1992 to more than 200 million in 1993.

"They are saving the equivalent output of 18 coal-fired power plants," said David Roodman, a co-author of the report. The bulbs, dominant in Japan and increasingly popular in Europe and the United States, cost more than ordinary bulbs.

But they last 10 times longer and use one-fourth the electricity for the same amount of light.

Other positive energy trends include increased use of wind power, solar cells and natural gas, while oil production remains flat, the report said.

Worldwide bicycle sales are now triple those of automobiles, Worldwatch said, with sales at an all-time high of 108 million last year. Car production is on the decline after hitting a peak in 1990 of 36 million vehicles.

Worldwatch is an international research group funded largely by private grants and the sale of its publications.

Rwanda government withdraws to Hutu base

KIGALI (Agencies) — Fierce fighting between soldiers and rebels raged Sunday in the Rwandan capital Kigali and the interim government retreated into the Hutu tribal heartland, army officers said.

"The RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) is heavily bombarding the centre of the city and four bombs landed metres away from the Red Cross hospital," U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) military spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante told reporters.

Fighting broke out before dawn with volleys from rockets, mortars, machineguns and small arms going on almost constantly for three hours. The gunfire died down a few hours later but the rebel mortaring of government districts went on.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which is trying to help wounded coming in at the rate of 100 daily, had requested both sides to avoid bringing the war to the hospital.

The government guns have been placed in the streets around it. "The RPF has told us they are trying hard to avoid hitting the hospital," Maj. Plante said.

Reporters saw several wounded soldiers brought into the hospital Saturday. One blood-spattered youth

had his legs blown off below the knees.

Self-declared President Theodore Sindikubwabo and several of his ministers went to the Lake Kivu village of Kibuye and then found their way to Gisenyi in the north-west, U.N. officials said.

"The president and some ministers went about three or four days ago and we were told they would be there for a week," Maj. Plante said.

But with the RPF controlling more than half of Rwanda, it was unclear where Mr. Sindikubwabo's itinerant government would go.

Gisenyi is Mr. Habyarimana's birthplace and home to many prominent army officers and members of the Presidential Guard. It is also one of the furthest points from the main thrust of the RPF offensive.

Gisenyi, despite the smart building put up by the town's most powerful son, is at the heart of the dark zone about which little information has emerged for weeks.

UNAMIR observers were robbed of everything including their watches when they evacuated Gisenyi in early May and saw large numbers of people massacred in previously-dug pits, U.N. officers said.

Even in Kigali, UNAMIR is unable to reach thousands of Tutsi civilians trapped in Nyamirambo because it is so

dangerous, swarming with Hutu death squads and pounded with rebel mortars.

White priests Otto Mayer and Henri Blanchard escaped government-held Nyamirambo Saturday a day after militia abducted 170 Tutsis sheltering in their compound.

They said they had seen the bodies of 10 of their charges and feared the rest had also been butchered. Up to 80 Tutsis, including seven Tutsi priests, were massacred by government soldiers and militias on June 6 in Nyamirambo, clergymen said.

"We will never go near the place under the current fighting conditions. It would end up in a total massacre, including ourselves," Maj. Plante said, referring to danger from the militias.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali announced in Tunis Sunday that thousands of long-awaited U.N. reinforcements

were now primed to intervene rapidly in Rwanda.

In an interview with AFP, the United Nations head said he could now count on 2,940 out of 5,500 extra U.N. troops to be deployed in Rwanda under a U.N. Security Council resolution confirmed Thursday, provided they were equipped with armoured vehicles.

"What has happened (in Rwanda) is a scandalous genocide," he said, adding that he



A militiaman of the government forces carries his wounded comrade to the Kigali Red Cross Hospital (AFP photo)

believed "the international community has been guilty" of delaying its intervention aimed at ending more than two months of ethnic carnage.

The additional troops — the majority from African countries — could now be deployed quickly if the armoured vehicles needed to ensure their safe passage around the country were made available, Dr. Ghali said here.

Around 100 such vehicles had now been pledged, half by South Africa and the rest by the United States, he said.

He stressed the troops' intervention was not dependent on a ceasefire being reached on the ground.

The Security Council resolution had "made available sufficient money for a six-month stay," he said, adding that he believed the reinforcements should remain in place for a year.

The U.N. mission has been powerless to stem the carnage since shortly after it erupted, when the Security Council reduced the peacekeeping force from 2,500 to 450 men amid condemnation over the move from aid agen-

cies and the media.

Dr. Ghali was speaking a day ahead of a three-day Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit here, and hours after OAU foreign ministers denounced the Rwanda bloodbath as "crimes against humanity" and demanded an immediate ceasefire.

In a series of resolutions to be presented to the summit, the ministers also expressed the "readiness" of African nations to provide troops to the U.N. mission and appealed to the international community to supply financial and logistical assistance to speed the deployment of additional U.N. forces and aid.

Calling Sunday for a new beginning, Dr. Ghali added: "Let's forget the past because the future will be a lot harder."

He said both the majority Hutus who dominate the government forces and the minority Tutsis leading the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels had carried out massacres, although the ethnic imbalance meant there had been more victims on one side than the other.

Abacha pledges democracy after Abiola declares rival government

LAGOS (AFP) — Military ruler General Sani Abacha vowed Sunday to steer Nigeria towards democracy while clamping down on dissenters, hours after his arch foe, Moshood Abiola, proclaimed a rival government.

Speaking on national television and radio, Gen. Abacha pledged his "determination" to carry through a programme aimed at establishing a durable democracy in Nigeria.

His address came on the anniversary of presidential elections last year which Muslim millionaire Abiola was widely believed to have won.

The June 12, 1993 poll was annulled despite being declared free and fair by international observers, and Gen. Abacha took power in November after a brief civilian administration.

During his broadcast address, which made no specific mention of Mr. Abiola or the events of the last few days, Gen. Abacha said his administration had been tasked with performing "a mission of national salvation."

"We have undertaken to lay a solid foundation for the growth of genuine democracy in our country. We are determined to accomplish this historic task. The armed forces had decided to take over the country in November 'to stem the tide of dangerous national descent to chaos and disorder' after 'critical elements' inside Nigeria had 'openly invited' the military to intervene," he said.

Gen. Abacha also called

on a thus far sceptical international community to back his administration and "do nothing to encourage... the parochial interest of a small opportunistic group within our society."

A constitutional conference on the country's future which Gen. Abacha is due to convene on June 27 is the best way forward for the country and would "afford any group or individual with genuine grievances ample opportunity to discuss them," he added.

Pro-democracy activists have denounced the conference as unrepresentative and called for an alternative conference to be presided over by Mr. Abiola.

Late Saturday Mr. Abiola, who apparently escaped from house arrest earlier in the day, declared himself president, army chief, and head of a rival "government of national unity."

Calling on Gen. Abacha to resign, he told a crowd of nearly 3,000 people at a clandestine meeting: "From this moment, a new government of national unity is in power... led by me... as president and commander-in-chief."

Mr. Abiola, who escaped heavy surveillance at his Lagos home after being put under house arrest early Saturday, was declared a wanted man by Gen. Abacha's security forces.

The Campaign For Democracy, a militant wing of the opposition movement, had asked the public to take part in a special mass Sunday at 1300 GMT at Lagos's Marina Cathedral to commemorate

the poll anniversary. It had also called for a week of civil disobedience starting Monday.

Nigerian authorities offered a reward Sunday for information leading to the arrest of Mr. Abiola, wanted for trying to overthrow the military government, news reports said Sunday.

National television said anyone with information on the whereabouts of Mr. Abiola would be eligible for a 60,000 naira (\$2,700) reward.

The authorities "asked anyone with information about his whereabouts to give such information to the nearest police station or security agency as a matter of urgency," the television said.

National radio, citing a police statement, said Mr. Abiola's activities jeopardised the country's progress towards democracy.

The police statement said Mr. Abiola's activities "include well laid-out plans to cause public disorder" and force the "overthrow of the federal military government."

The statement added that police were searching offices of certain media organisations "suspected to be storing some arms as part of a grand design to force a change to government."

The statement also charged that Mr. Abiola was being helped by foreign groups. "It has been established that these activities have enjoyed the tacit support and linkages to a certain foreign mission in Lagos," the statement said.



Wounded governmental militiamen are unloaded on stretchers from a Coca-Cola delivery truck at the Kigali Red Cross Hospital (AFP photo)

U.N.: Truce is holding in Bosnia; Red Cross notes 'flexibility'

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations said a ceasefire was holding in Bosnia, despite sporadic fighting and shelling along several front lines Sunday.

Red Cross officials said both sides were showing flexibility in talks on exchanging prisoners and determining the fate of missing persons.

International negotiators hope a four-week ceasefire which took effect Friday will give them breathing space to work out a political settlement to the 26-month-old war that has left an estimated 200,000 people dead or missing.

Many previous truces have failed. But with the war at a seeming stalemate in many areas, U.N. officials hope this one will hold.

Warring sides Saturday accused each other of flagrant truce violations. On Sunday, sporadic fighting and shelling were reported, but U.N. spokesman Maj. Jam Dace Holland said in Sarajevo, "basically, the ceasefire is holding."

Maj. Thomas Moller, a U.N. spokesman in the northern Bosnian city of Tuzla, reported that the situation was "generally calm."

Fighting and shelling were reported, however, along the vital northern Bosnian corridor that links Serb-dominated Yugoslavia to Serb-held lands farther west in Bosnia and Croatia.

Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency said the town of Brcko, located at the narrowest part of the corridor, was hit by eight rockets from about 10 kilometres (six miles) away in Croatia.

It said that was the eighth attack on Brcko in a month, and the fifth from Croat positions. It made no mention of

casualties or damage.

The mainly Muslim Bosnian army has reclaimed territory captured by secessionists in the Bihać enclave in western Bosnia, U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Eric Chaperon said here Sunday.

The army launched a counter-offensive against the Muslim separatists Saturday after they attacked the village of Krakace leaving five people dead, according to local media reports.

U.N. monitors in the area said the government offensive began at dawn Saturday when troops broke through defensive lines and advanced four kilometres (two miles) into the enclave.

Government forces seized the village of Golubovici, the report said, adding that fighting continued in the area throughout the day Saturday. Military observers had counted more than 500 artillery or mortar rounds fired.

The enclave, the northern part of which is controlled by secessionist leader Fikret Abdic, is not covered by the terms of the month-long U.N.-brokered ceasefire which came into force Friday over the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnian sources said government forces had recaptured a number of villages in the Velika Kladusa district containing Mr. Abdic's stronghold.

Fighting between government troops and the Muslim forces from the enclave began last autumn, after Mr. Abdic unilaterally declared the enclave an independent republic.

Maj. Chaperon said that it did not appear that secessionist Serbs in Croatia's Krajina region had assisted Mr. Abdic's troops in the latest

fighting. He added that the ceasefire accord brokered in Geneva appears to be holding throughout the country.

"The situation appears to be improving" and with each passing hour were getting better reports, he said, adding that the northern front, one of the most active prior to the ceasefire, was "really calm, which is excellent news."

In Sarajevo, an official of the International Red Cross, reported a good atmosphere in talks on prisoners and missing persons.

"There is willingness to go further, seriously further, to demonstrate flexibility by both sides," Thierry Germond told reporters late Saturday.

Further talks were scheduled. Mr. Germond said the Red Cross had asked both sides to come up with lists of people they have detained. Previously, both sides would present lists of people they thought were held by the other side.

The war in Bosnia broke out in April 1992 when minority Serbs, armed by the Yugoslav army, rebelled against the Muslim-Croat majority's decision to secede from Yugoslavia. Serbs now control about 70 per cent of Bosnia.

Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian government recently restored their alliance, bringing peace to much of central and southwestern Bosnia and helping the government nibble away at Serb-held territory.

Bosnian Serbs wanted a ceasefire longer than four weeks, but the government feared that could cement Serb battlefield gains and undermine efforts to reach a political settlement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope condemns abortion laws

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Keeping up his crusade against abortion, Pope John Paul II Sunday again attacked laws legalising it. Marriage and family were the themes of the day, as the Pope offered his wishes and blessing for 12 couples who were married Sunday morning at the central altar of St. Peter's Basilica. Colombian Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo married the couples, who came from Italy, Poland, Spain, Germany, Croatia, Vietnam and the Philippines, and read a sermon prepared by the Pope. Later, from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square, the Pope reminded the crowd below that 1994 is the U.N. Year of the Family. "In the Year of the Family, that fundamental right of man that is the right to life must be above all else confirmed," the Pope said in traditional Sunday noon appearance. "One can't thwart this right, for example, legalising the suppression of life, especially of those who are not yet born." The Pope is expected to bring his anti-abortion crusade to New York in the fall when he addresses the U.N. General Assembly.

Elderly Greek votes and dies

ATHENS (AFP) — A Greek pensioner died of a heart attack in a voting booth in the northern city of Salonika shortly after he cast his ballot in the European parliamentary elections, police said Sunday. They identified the dead man as Mossos Dvanopoulos, 73.

Mexican rebels reject peace accord

SAN CRISTOBAL, Mexico (AFP) — Mexico's peasant rebels rejected a provisional peace agreement reached with the government following a New Year's Day uprising, the guerrilla organisation said in a statement Sunday. The Zapatista National Liberation Army said that a ceasefire would remain in effect even though a peace accord reached in March was rejected by their grassroots supporters by a margin of two per cent in favour and 98 per cent against. "The government's close-mindedness blocks any possible agreement at this time," the Zapatistas said in a statement signed by deputy commander Marcos, an eloquent and enigmatic figure whose identity is a subject of much speculation in Mexico. "Unfortunately, the government's historical blindness prevents it from seeing that its refusal to give in to pressure for democracy will lead to a painful confrontation and unforeseeable circumstances," Commander Marcos added. The largely peasant organisation took one city and several towns in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas in surprise attacks that shook Mexico in this election year.

Woman killed in Alaska ship accident

JUNEAU, Alaska (AFP) — A tourist cracked her skull and died when the gangway of a cruise ship in Juneau, Alaska, broke away Saturday. The 52-year-old woman smashed her head against the side of the ship as she fell into the water. She died despite the efforts of a crewman who dived 10 metres into the chilly water and pulled the already unconscious woman to the ship. Three other tourists hung to the dangling gangway for more than an hour before being rescued. The passengers had been preparing to leave the Yorktown Clipper and fly home.

Actor-producer Bill Marshall dies

PARIS (AFP) — American actor and producer G. William (Bill) Marshall has died at the age of 71, according to an obituary run by the daily Le Figaro Saturday. Marshall, who was married to actresses Michele Morgan, Michelle Presle, Ginger Rogers, and Corinne Abouneau, died Thursday. He had a son, actor Mike Marshall, with Michele Morgan and a daughter, director Tonie Marshall, with Michelle Presle. He published his memoirs covering his professional and sen-

imental exploits in Hollywood and Europe in 1983, but Michele Morgan had several paragraphs concerning her deleted from the book. Marshall appeared alongside some of the biggest names in Hollywood, notably Clark Gable, Errol Flynn and Marilyn Monroe.

Malaysia defends MiG purchase

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia Sunday defended its purchase of 18 MiG fighters as an intelligent buy, dismissing claims that the deal was a "dumping of Russian arms," news reports here said. "We made a thorough evaluation of the aircraft before finally deciding on the purchase," Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak was quoted saying by the New Sunday Times weekly. Russian political commentator Rustam Narzikulov said in Moscow's authoritative Sevodaya newspaper Wednesday, that the \$550-million sale to Malaysia amounted to a dumping of Russian military technology on the world. Mr. Narzikulov said Tuesday's part-cash, part-barter sale — hailed by Russian officials as "the deal of the century" — came amid an economic crisis faced by Russia's defence industry, which had no choice but to unload its aviation hardware in South East Asia. Mr. Najib, apparently annoyed by Mr. Narzikulov's remarks, said the Russian was unaware of the tough evaluation carried out by Kuala Lumpur on the MiG before Malaysia agreed to buy the fighters almost two years after they were first offered to Malaysia's airforce.

Bush arrives for Greek cruise

ATHENS (AFP) — Former U.S. President George Bush and his wife Barbara arrived here Sunday for a luxury cruise through the Greek islands at the invitation of shipping magnate Iannis Latsis. The couple arrived at Athens airport on board Mr. Latsis' private jet and were immediately transferred by helicopter to his yacht, the Alexander, anchored in the port of Piraeus. The yacht is due to cruise around the Greek islands until June 20. Tight security has been arranged for the trip, a police source said. A government spokesman said Mr. Bush had scheduled no meetings with political leaders.

Blast rocks Moscow power station

MOSCOW (AFP) — An explosion rocked a thermo-electric power station in central Moscow Sunday, triggering a fire and cutting off power to electric trams and buses in part of the city, Interfax News Agency said. The cause of the blast was being investigated but the report, quoting informed sources, said terrorism had been ruled out. A large number of firefighters were sent to the scene and the blaze was brought under control after about one and a half hours, Interfax said, adding that no one was hurt in the incident. Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov visited the site and clean-up work was continuing.

Hanoi stops travel to E. Europe

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam has decided to stop issuing exit visas to its citizens wanting to travel to Eastern Europe, Russia and Germany, where thousands of Vietnamese are living illegally, a report said Sunday. The temporary ban was ordered by Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and is effective immediately, according to the Thanh Nien newspaper. Vietnamese living illegally in Russia and eastern Germany, where many were sent as "guest workers" under government agreements in the early 1980s, have been an irritation to Hanoi's former Communist allies. Large numbers of Vietnamese have entered the countries on tourist visas and stayed on, often setting up trading businesses or working without permits. Germany is currently demanding that Vietnam take back some 45,000 illegal Vietnamese residents but Hanoi has said it would only accept a "humanitarian solution to the problem" involving aid to encourage them to return voluntarily.

Bangladesh protesters demand author's death

DHAKA (AP) — Thousands of Muslims marched through a southern town demanding the death of a feminist author accused of criticising the Korean, an official said Sunday.

Rewards totalling \$5,000 have been offered for the murder of Dr. Taslima Nasreen, 31, who has been in hiding since a court last week ordered her arrest after a newspaper reported she wanted Islam's holy book revised.

On Saturday, nearly 10,000 demonstrators chanting, "death to Taslima Nasreen" presented a statement to authorities in Barisal town demanding her arrest. They also demanded curbs on foreign-funded aid groups helping Bangladeshi women.

An Islamic cleric offered a reward of 100,000 takas (\$2,500) Friday for killing Ms. Nasreen. A Muslim extremist group offered a similar reward several months ago after her novel Shame, about anti-Hindu discrimination in mostly Muslim Bangladesh, angered Islamic clerics.

The demonstrators Saturday also wanted the government to ban the Janakantha newspaper, which highly criticised the Muslim clerics.

An Islamic leader in Barisal, Shah Mohammad Mithullah, demanded laws against blasphemy and restriction on the activities of foreign-funded social organisations encouraging women to remove their veils and seek social equality.

A new coalition of Muslim extremists threatened to launch a holy war if the government doesn't hang Ms. Nasreen and ban international relief agencies spreading Western traditions. Nearly 800 non-government development organisations, with annual budgets totalling \$200 million, work in Bangladesh to spread literacy, health care and family planning.

The government banned Ms. Nasreen's novel Shame.

Akihito, Michiko start Washington visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan have begun a tour of America's capital after completing a visit to two history-rich southern cities.

Vice President Al Gore welcomed the imperial couple to Washington Saturday. Officials said the tour is aimed at promoting good will and permitting them to see parts of the nation missed on their earlier visits as crown prince and princess.

They're due to meet many Washington celebrities during their three-day stay, highlighted by a state dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton Monday and a Japanese embassy reception Tuesday.

On Sunday, the royal couple will meet with about 60 Japanese business, academic

and media leaders. They will then visit art galleries and attend a special concert by young musicians at the Kennedy Centre.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrived from Charleston, S.C., Saturday evening. They were greeted at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., by Mr. Gore and his wife, Tipper, U.S. ambassador to Japan, Vice President Walter Mondale, and his wife Joan.

The couple were to stay Sunday at Blair House, the official presidential guest residence across from the White House.

Demonstrators critical of the view of some Japanese of World War II, which plays down aggression and the harsh Japanese occupation of China, planned a rally in nearby Lafayette Park.

Georgia civil rights activist Hosea L. Williams told the couple in an unexpected encounter at Atlanta's Martin Luther King Centre Friday that he considered Japanese racists and disrespectful of U.S. blacks.

"Thanks for your admirable question," the emperor told Mr. Williams.

Officials said the visit to Atlanta and the tomb of the slain Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and meeting with Rev. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, was scheduled partly to show interest in Civil War history, the Civil Rights Movement and to show respect for U.S. blacks.

The southern tour also recognised the warm welcome southern states like Georgia and South Carolina have given to Japanese industries and investments.

WORLD CUP ROUNDUP

Italy, Switzerland and Bolivia struggle in warm up matches

The Associated Press
WITH less than a week to go before the World Cup opens, Italy, Switzerland and Bolivia struggled in exhibition games.

Giuseppe Signori scored for the third straight game but Italy did not generate much offense Saturday in a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Conn.

Signori, who led the Italian league in scoring this season with 23 goals for Lazio of Rome, connected with 30 minutes remaining off a pass from Roberto Baggio, the world player of the year in 1993.

"We are improving match after match," Baggio said. "I'm sure we will do well in the World Cup."

About 23,500 fans — most of them Italians and Italian-Americans who waved Italian flags and played horns — applauded the Azzurri at the end of Saturday's game. The crowd had booed in the first half.

"Certainly we are not yet playing at our best," Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi said. "But we made some improvement from the game with Switzerland. I'm convinced that we'll have the proper condition and determination by the match with Ireland."

In other games, Switzerland and Bolivia played a scoreless tie. Mexico beat Northern Ireland 3-0 and South Korea defeated Honduras 3-0.

At Montreal, the Swiss and Bolivians attacked only in the first half.

Marco Pascolo, Switzerland's no. 1 goalkeeper, returned with a bandaged knee after a three-week absence

and played the first half. Stephane Chapuisat wasted several scoring chances near the end of the first half for the Swiss, who open World Cup play Saturday against the United States at the Pontiac Silverdome.

At Miami, Luis Garcia scored two first-half goals. Carlos Hermosillo scored in the second half and Hugo Sanchez returned from a two-month layoff by playing the first 69 minutes at the Orange Bowl.

Sanchez, a 35-year-old forward who plays for Ray Vallecano in Spain, has been out seven weeks with a torn thigh muscle. He was Mexico's hero at the 1986 World Cup and a five-time scoring leader in Spain.

Garcia scored on a penalty kick in the 19th minute after Northern Ireland goalkeeper Alan Fettes tripped Luis Antonio Vales. Garcia got his second on a 15-yard shot. Hermosillo scored with 12 minutes to go.

At Duncanville, Texas, Jeong Woon Ko scored one goal and set up another as South Korea breezed past non-qualifier Honduras 3-0 in its last World Cup tuneup.

Ko opened the scoring on a header in the 7th minute. He set up the second goal by Sun Hong Hwang, who fired a left-footed shot while lying on his back past Honduras goalkeeper Carlos Padilla, to put the South Koreans up 2-0 at halftime. Joo Sung Kim scored South Korea's third at 76 minutes off a Hwang pass.

Four Hondurans were cautioned and one was sent off.

In other developments

— In Santa Barbara,



Spanish World Cup coach Javier Clemente (right) works with players Saturday during the team's first practice at Illinois Benedictine College. Spain will open World Cup play Friday against South Korea in Dallas, Texas (AP photo).

Calif., Cameroon players said they voted to replace Stephan Tataw as captain with goalkeeper Joseph Antoine Bell, who has been among the players asking for higher bonuses.

Bell got 14 of 22 votes while Tataw got two. Roger Milla, the 42-year-old forward, got one vote.

It is the first time players on the "Indomitable Lions" elected their own captain. In the past, captains usually were appointed by the minister of youth and sports.

— Central defender Patrik Andersson, who banged up his left knee in practice Friday, is likely to miss Sweden's final World Cup tuneup Sunday against Romania at Mission Viejo, Calif.

"The knee is still hurting a little bit," Andersson said

Saturday in San Diego. "I don't want to risk anything tomorrow if I'm not fully fit."

He was injured Friday in a collision with midfielder Jesper Blomqvist.

Midfielder Klas Ingesson practised Saturday after missing the team's workout on Friday because of a bruised thigh.

— Norway's players might have thought they'd woken up in Oslo Saturday if it hadn't been for the Danish flag fluttering outside their hotel at Princeton, N.J.

On their first morning in the United States, the players were served Norwegian-style bread, baked for them by their hotel. They sipped milk flown in from Norway, and chatted in Norwegian with reporters.

Their Scandinavian-owned hotel — the Scanticon-Princeton — had a Norwegian flag waving alongside ones from the United States and Denmark.

"The hotel was designed by Danish architects. I could tell the first time they (team officials) walked in here that they felt at home," hotel manager Henri Vergnaud said.

Even the weather was more Nordic cool than East Coast hot, which was actually a disappointment for a team that fears the thermometer.

"Since we probably will have to play in the heat, it would have been an advantage to get started right away," forward Jahn Ivar

WorldCupUSA



FIFA set to increase World Cup field, increase membership

CHICAGO (AP) — After a tumultuous year, FIFA calls its 49th congress to order Wednesday with its long-reigning president chastised but secure, it's bankbook bulging and its biggest star once again a welcome guest.

A record number of delegates from 190 nations gather in the run-up to the World Cup, which makes it U.S. debut Friday when Germany opens defense of its title against Bolivia at Soldier Field.

By the opening kickoff, the sport's leaders are expected to have adopted a budget containing a surplus almost three times bigger than the current one, considered proposals to give more power to African and Asian members and most assuredly reelected Joao Havelange to a fifth term as president.

A towering former Olympic swimmer with an icy stare and a cold eye for business, Havelange has ruled soccer since 1974. His grip appeared to be loosening last winter, when European and American regional federations started talking about running a candidate against Havelange in Chicago.

They complained about his autocratic style and a whirl of controversy, including a snub of Pele at December's World Cup draw.

But the 77-year-old Brazilian dispelled his critics with the type of manoeuvre that over the last two decades has

become truly Havelangean.

Two years after awarding the 1998 World Cup to France, Havelange pushed through expansion of the field for that tournament from 24 to 32 teams. Distribution of the extra eight spots will not be decided until later this year, but expected are:

— Europe will retain its 13 berths, silencing that dissent, and may get a few more.

— Qualifying spots also should be added to the five other continental associations: South America, Asia, Africa and CONCACAF, and Oceania is finally expected to get a guaranteed one.

Havelange, also took care of the Pele matter.

The one player recognised by almost everybody, including Americans, was barred from the draw in Las Vegas after suing Havelange's son-in-law. American organisers were angry and bitter words were exchanged.

But in recent months, soccer's boss and its ambassador-at-large have had a rapprochement. They even sat together at a tournament in Trinidad and Havelange let it be known that Pele was OK.

Lingering opposition to Havelange vanished. He will run unopposed in Thursday's balloting, the highlight of a relatively light and friction-free agenda.

"Any congress will serve that purpose, to bring the entire membership together," said Keith Cooper, a FIFA spokesman in Zurich, Switzerland. "It's the only time when all delegates come together in one room, as one big happy family."

This congress will have more delegates than ever before, since for the first time FIFA is paying expenses. Fifteen new members will be installed, including seven from the former Soviet Union. A vice president's seat formerly reserved for a Soviet delegate will be abolished.

Further restructuring of the executive board is expected, with an African proposal to add members from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. A proposal from the board itself recommends only an additional European member.

Wherever the members come from, they will have much more money to spend.

The congress will consider a budget for the next four years of \$73.3 million, an 11.3 per cent increase from 1990-93. The new budget includes a surplus of \$5.1 million, compared with \$1.6 million in the previous plan. The biggest increase in revenue comes from women's soccer sponsorships — from zero in the previous budget to \$18 million this time.

U.S. goalie is earning — and still learning

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (AP) — Nineteen years ago, a youth soccer coach stuck Tony Meola in the goal because the 6-year-old was a bit on the heavy side.

Nowadays, Meola is the captain of the U.S. World Cup team and earns the most of any of the players, a reported \$500,000 per year. And he is still between the posts.

"I didn't have much of a choice," Meola says of his introduction to soccer. "I was the fastest kid on the team and couldn't run around with everyone else and that's why I got stuck in goal."

"My nickname, 'butterball,' was very fitting. I was always a good athlete, though, and I'm thankful I grew up instead of out."

Meola solidified into a 1.85-metre (6-foot-1), 93-kilogramme (206-pound) athlete. He has starred in baseball, basketball and high school soccer — at forward his senior year.

He played soccer and baseball at the University of Virginia and was drafted as an outfielder by the major-league New York Yankees in the 13th round of the 1987 amateur baseball draft.

But he was set on playing in the World Cup. Meola comes from a soccer background: His father, Vinny, played professionally in Avellino, Italy, in the early 1960s.

Meola's home town — Kearney, New Jersey, near New York — also is where teammates John Harkes and Tab Ramos hail from.

"Most of my friends were first-generation Americans and we had a head coach and



Tony Meola

17 assistants, the players' fathers, most of whom had played in Europe," Meola said of his high school team. "We would have between 7,000 and 12,000 fans at our games."

One of those big crowds almost caused him to give up soccer, Meola said.

"The school had won seven state championships, and we were in the conference finals when I was a freshman," he said. "We gave up the first goal, five minutes into the game, and the fans were all over us. They destroyed us."

"We won 12-1, but when I went home, I told my mom (Maria) that was it. I'm quitting, and she said, 'You're

not quitting anything."

Although he has played in 91 international games, second among American players only to former national team player Bruce Murray's 93, Meola said he's still learning his craft.

"I was always a gifted athlete, but I was never a goalkeeper," said Meola, who was the goalie for the United States team at age 21 in the 1990 World Cup. "I've started becoming a goalkeeper."

"I used to do everything just on athletic ability. I still don't have the greatest technique in the world, but I'm learning."

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HORSE RACING

Tabasco Cat defeats Go for Gin in Belmont stakes

NEW YORK (AP)—Tabasco Cat won the 126th Belmont Stakes here Saturday, giving him victory in the final two events of U.S. horse racing's Triple Crown.

Tabasco Cat took home \$392,280 from a total purse of \$653,800, boosting his season's earnings to \$1.325 million.

Kentucky Derby winner Go for Gin finished second while Derby runner-up Strokes Creek took third in the 1.5 mile (2.4 km) event.

Tabasco Cat, who won the Preakness last month, stayed just behind Go for Gin much of the way, then surged past in the final stretch to win by two lengths. Strokes Creek

was 3.5 lengths further behind.

Tabasco Cat became the ninth three-year-old to win at both Belmont and the Preakness in the same year. He placed sixth at the Derby. His time of two minutes, 26.4 seconds was the fifth fastest in Belmont history.

The Kentucky-bred colt, driven to victory by Pat Day, had to be pushed into the starting gate but showed no reluctance from there.

Signal Tap was fifth, Amathos sixth and Ulises seventh, 47 lengths back.

Brocco, a pre-race favourite, was scratched just before the start following a bruised right hoof suffered in a workout Thursday.

Exclusive World Cup Countdown Shows to be broadcast on Orbit

IF YOU'VE got a satellite dish then tune in for the next two Thursdays, 9 June and 16 June and see the World Cup 'Countdown' shows. At 9pm each Thursday they will be broadcast on Orbit ESPN Sports.

Presented by Ibrahim Rashed, Yousef Saif and Khalid Al Harban, these shows will feature the teams, how they got to the finals, and their key personalities. There will be reports from Saudi and Morocco, interviews with the players and coaches and analysis from the Arab World's leading sports journalists.

Among the guests will be Saleh Al Hammadi, from the Arabic daily paper 'Al Riyadiya', Khalil Al Zayani, ex-Saudi National Team Trainer, and Meme Shabini, who capped 65 times for Egypt. And Abdel Majid Shattali, the coach of the Tunisian team when they reached the World Cup finals in 1978.

The shows, being brought to you from locations around the USA, are just the start of the best and most comprehensive and most innovative coverage of the World Cup. Brought to you by Orbit ESPN Sports they both start at 9 pm KSA time (10 pm UAB) this Thursday 16th June... make sure you tune in.

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♥ A K
♦ J 8 2
♣ Q 9 7 3 2

EAST
♠ 9 4 2
♥ 10 9 7 8
♦ A 7 6 4
♣ 10 8 5 5

SOUTH
♠ A 3
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ A J 4

The bidding: West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

Know how many tricks you must develop to fulfill your contract. The answer to that question often dictates how you should tackle a suit. There is no trump in an easy contract to reach. Simple arithmetic tells North there is more than enough in high cards to make game, but not enough for slam. After West starts a heart, most

declarers would lead a club to the jack at trick two, losing to the king. After winning the heart return, a club to the ace reveals the unfavorable break and the contract can no longer be made.

With five tricks in the major suits, declarer needs only four in the minors to fulfill the contract. Since declarer can afford to surrender the lead only once, clubs is the right suit to attack. However, the correct way to go about it is to lead a club to the ace.

If the clubs are 3-3, four tricks can be established by force, so you need to be concerned only with 4-1 breaks. If the king appears, turn your attention to the diamond suit to score an overtrick. If only low clubs appear, cross to dummy with a spade and lead a club. If East shows out, play the jack and a later finesse for the ten gives you four tricks.

If East has the club length, the defender cannot afford to rise with the king on the second lead of the suit because that would establish the suit. So East must play low, you insert the jack and that will win. Now you stand on clubs and set up two diamond tricks and all's well.

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British John Reynolds flies through the air during the training of the German Grand Prix after crashing his Yamaha 500cc motorcycle in Hockenheim Saturday. Reynolds escaped the accident with minor bruises (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Berzin wins Tour of Italy

MILAN, Italy (AP)—Russia's Eugeni Berzin held on to the lead of Italy's most prestigious cycling event for 19 straight stages to capture the Tour of Italy Sunday. Coming in first in the final stage, a 198-kilometre mostly flat leg, from Turin to Milan was Italy's Stefano Zanini. Berzin, who put on the bright pink jersey of overall leader after the fourth leg, became the first Russian cyclist to win the Italian "Giro." The riders took off May 22 in Bologna and pedalled over plains and through steep mountain stretches, under blazing sun, through fog and snow during the race's 3,026 kilometres, divided into 22 stages.

Krajicek wins Rosmalen championships

ROSMALEN, Netherlands (AP)—Dutchman Richard Krajicek won the first grass court tournament of his career Sunday, defeating Karsten Braasch of Germany 6-3, 6-4, in the final of the Rosmalen grass court tennis championships. "My backhands and returns are working well and I'm a more relaxed tennis player now," said Krajicek after the match. "But it wasn't easy out there today." Krajicek picked up the first prize of \$42,000 to take his career prize money over the \$2 million mark. He lost no more than four games in any set in five straight-sets victories in the \$288,500 tournament.

Thai flyweight retains WBA title

WATTANANAKORN, Thailand (AP)—World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Saen Sor-Ploenchit of Thailand retained his title Sunday with a points decision over number-one contender Aquiles Guzman of Venezuela. The first three rounds were close, but the taller Saen, 23, pulled ahead in the fourth round to defeat Guzman, 28, with a combination of jabs, hooks, crosses and uppercuts, mostly to the face. Judges Rodolfo Maldonado of Panama and Roberto Ramirez of Puerto Rico gave it to Saen 117-113 and 117-112 respectively, while Julio Aguella of Colombia scored it a 115-115 draw.

3 teams win Bundesliga promotion

BERLIN (AP)—TSV 1860 Munich Saturday became the first club in German soccer history to earn promotion to the Bundesliga after once having played in an amateur league. Munich and Bayer Uerdingen clinched berths in Germany's top professional league for the coming season when they won their last second division matches of the season. VfL Bochum, relegated last season, had secured a return trip to the first division several weeks ago as division two champion. The three teams will replace FC Nuremberg, VfB Leipzig and Wattenscheid, which were the last three in the first division standings.

U.S. to host 1999 Alpine championships

VAIL, Colorado (AP)—This western U.S. city was awarded the 1999 World Alpine Ski Championships Saturday, defeating St. Moritz, Switzerland, 64-38 on a second-ballot vote by the International Ski Federation. Vail, site of the 1989 world finals, received more than \$60 million in revenue from hosting the event before. Vail and St. Moritz advanced to the final vote after Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, was eliminated in the first vote. Vail had 49 votes, with 28 for St. Moritz and 25 for the German city. "It was particularly difficult going up against St. Moritz, our sister city," said Vail bid Chairman Harry Frampton. "When you compete against good friends, it's kind of tough."

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Brazil beat China, win women's world basketball championship

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Veteran guard Hortencia scored 27 points in the final international game of her career Sunday as Brazil beat China 96-87, winning its first women's world basketball championship.

Many of the Brazilian players wept as they celebrated their unexpected victory.

Hortencia, at 34 the oldest player in the tournament, led her team brilliantly as the South American champions played the game from outside in a bid to foil powerful Chinese centre Zheng Haixia.

Zheng scored 27 points, the Brazilians led for virtually the whole game as they were cheered on by hundreds on drum-beating, samba-dancing fans.

Hortencia hit 13 of her 14 free throws, while forward Janeth Arcain had 20 points for the Brazilians and guard Paula scored 17, including three-pointers, in what was also her international swan song.

The Brazilians out-rebounded the Chinese 26-23 as Alessandra did an effective defensive job on Zheng.

Teresa Edwards had 18 of her 20 points in the second half as the United States rallied to defeat Australia 100-95 in the bronze-medal play-off.

Australia led 88-86 with 4:21 left to play, but faded down the stretch.

The Brazilians lost to China in a quarterfinal-round

match, but used their speed to completely dominate the final at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

"There will be a lot of elation in Brazil and the players fully deserve all the accolades," said coach Miguel Angelo da Luz.

Brazil led by 19 points with 16:38 remaining, but kept calm as the Chinese closed the gap to five points with 3:47 left.

Brazil's best previous performance in a world championship was third in 1971.

Hortencia and Paula starred for the second time in less than 24 hours. The pair combined for 61 points as Brazil stunned the defending champion United States 110-107 in the semifinals.

"I'm super happy to leave basketball this way," Hortencia said. "It all fell into place like a hand into a glove. It is a great end to 20 years of hard work."

"The team was very calm on the court. We played basketball the way we believed we could play it."

Coach da Luz said it would be impossible to replace Hortencia and Paula on the team.

"There is no substitute for Hortencia and Paula, just as there was no substitute for (soccer star) Pele," he said.

Chinese coach Chen Daohong said his team had shot poorly from outside and that Zheng had not made a big enough impact.

"It was a very difficult game for us," he said. "We were much too anxious and

not as patient as Brazil." International rookie Lisa Leslie had 19 points for the United States against Australia, while Katrina McLain had 16 points and 15 rebounds.

The Americans rebounded after suffering their first defeat in a world championship game in 11 years against Brazil.

"I was pleased with my team's effort against Australia. I just wish we'd had that effort throughout the tournament," said United States head coach Tara Vanderveer.

"Teresa hit some big baskets for us. She's an extremely competitive athlete and she took yesterday's loss very hard. It's nice to see someone bounce back like that."

Guard Sandy Brondello led Australia with 22 points and Trish Fallon had 15, but the Australians had difficulty countering the Americans' size advantage.

"McClain's rebounding was pretty tough. She's got such a big jump. That was a key factor," said Australian coach Tom Maher.

Slovakia won the playoff for fifth place 92-81 over Cuba, while Canada beat Spain 70-65 for seventh place.

Tournament officials named Brazilians Hortencia and Janeth Arcain, Americans McClain and Edwards and China's Zheng to the tournament all-star five. Zheng was named tournament MVP.

Christie slams stay-at-home athletes

SHEFFIELD, England (AP)—Lindford Christie proved his superb form as he completed the quickest 100m ever seen on a British track here Saturday — then criticised his athletic colleagues for snubbing the European Cup.

Christie, 34, urged for more pride in wearing the national vest. "If your country wants you, there should be no argument," said Christie after running a wind-assisted 9.91 sec in winning the AAA national championships here.

Though eyes of Europe will be on the showpiece event in Birmingham, central England, in two weeks time, selectors may have to choose a second-rate host team.

And captain Christie is angry that the chance of regaining the men's trophy, won for the first time at Gateshead in 1989, could be lost.

He said after equalling McDonald Bailey's record of seven AAA 100m titles: "I find it disappointing that there are some perfectly fit athletes who are saying they will not compete. If I can manage it when I'm facing my most hectic racing programme ever, then why can't they?"

"I did two races in Germany Friday night and three more at these championships. But I'm not complaining. I hope the British Athletic Federation will consider imposing some penalty for those who say 'no'."

Christie also clocked a 10.03sec in Saturday's semifinal — again helped by a

following wind. An indifferent start after two recalls, he hammered out that 9.91sec with the wind at 3.7m/s.

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China: Sanctions will not work against N. Korea

BEIJING (Agencies) — China said Sunday that sanctions against North Korea would not work but promised to play a positive role in U.N. efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff, a Japanese official reported.

For a world that has been awaiting clues to whether China would block U.N. sanctions against its ally, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's talks Sunday with his Japanese counterpart were inconclusive and unsatisfying.

A Japanese government official, who briefed reporters on condition his name not be used, said Mr. Qian did not say what China would do if a sanctions resolution came up for vote in the U.N. Security Council. As one of the council's five permanent members, China has veto power.

The United States said it will propose such a resolution this week in hopes of forcing recalcitrant North Korea to open its nuclear programme to full international inspections. North Korea has aroused fears that it is developing a nuclear bomb by refusing to let inspectors visit some suspected nuclear sites or measure the spent fuel from an

experimental reactor. Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa arrived Sunday morning from South Korea and went straight to a meeting with Mr. Qian. He left immediately afterward without making any public statements.

He was the second foreign minister from the region to fly to Beijing in recent days to seek its support against North Korea. South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo made a similar quick visit on Thursday, and also left without apparently obtaining any promise to refrain from vetoing sanctions.

China has said for weeks that it opposes sanctions because they would only heighten tensions.

The Japanese government official said Mr. Qian "told us that applying sanctions to North Korea would be ineffective, judging from the fact that it has already been isolated and has little economic contact with the rest of the world."

He also quoted Mr. Qian as saying that China opposed solving the issue through "violence." The Japanese official, asked if that included sanctions, said that sanctions could lead to violence. Japanese sources said the

Chinese government was nevertheless showing some signs that it was getting more worried about North Korea's nuclear programme, saying that it did not quite know what stage this has already reached.

In recent months, the Chinese were saying they believed that North Korea had no nuclear-bomb capability. "But now, they are obviously more worried about the present situation," the sources said.

North Korea, meanwhile, warned of "decisive" action if the United States embarks on a "reckless adventure" over the nuclear dispute.

"The United States must clearly see our unshakable will and resolution and immediately stop the adventurous war provocation moves," the official Korean Central News Agency said in a report monitored here.

The attack on the United States was in response to a resolution adopted by the House of Representatives last Thursday urging North Korea to allow inspections of its suspect military sites.

"If the United States chooses a reckless adventure, ignoring our repeated warnings, we will take a decisive self-defensive measure."

Opposition gains in EU vote

Agence France Presse

OPPOSITION parties headed for sweeping gains in key European Union (EU) States Sunday as local issues dominated elections to the European Parliament.

And voters in Austria turned out massively to approve their country's membership in the EU as of January, two in three of them casting ballots in favour, according to official results.

Eight of the EU's 12 member states held elections to the Strasbourg-based parliament on Sunday. Britain, Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands voted Thursday but results were only being released late Sunday.

The governing parties in Spain and Britain were expected to suffer heavy losses in the European vote, while in France left-wing and anti-Europe splinter parties cut deeply into the scores of the mainstream parties representing the governing centre-right coalition and the Socialists.

Of the EU's five biggest members, only the governments of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Italy's new right-wing Premier Silvio Berlusconi

enjoyed strong showings in the European Parliament vote.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, in tandem with its traditional ally the Christian Social Union, maintained a solid advantage over the Social Democratic opposition, according to exit polls announced on German television.

The CDU/CSU alliance polled between 39 and 40.5 per cent, against 33 to 34 per cent for the SPD, the state-run ARD and ZDF television channels said.

The results appeared to bode well for the government in legislative elections later this year.

The ruling coalition's junior member, the Free Democrats, however, fell below the five per cent level needed to send deputies to Strasbourg, scoring between four and 4.5 per cent.

In Italy, the three-party alliance which brought Mr. Berlusconi to power in May took 48.5 per cent of the vote, according to exit polls released by the state television network RAI.

The voting in Italy was considered an early plebiscite on Mr. Berlusconi's con-

troverial government, which includes five neo-fascist ministers.

In Spain, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Socialist Party was handed stinging defeats in both the European poll and elections to the local parliament in the autonomous region of Andalusia, where the Socialists lost their long-held absolute majority, exit polls showed.

An exit poll by the RTVE television network showed the conservative Popular Party winning between 26 and 28 of Spain's 64 seats in the European Parliament, compared to between 21 and 23 for the Socialists.

Mr. Gonzalez's government, in power since 1982, has been hard hit by Spain's economic recession and recent scandals.

Exit polls also indicated heavy defeat for the ruling party in Portugal and losses for the ruling coalition in Luxembourg.

There was no early word on results in Belgium where the vote was seen as a key test of support for Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene — ironically mooted as a possible next president of the European Commission.

Lubavitcher rabbi dies at 92

NEW YORK (AFP) — Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, who revived the Lubavitcher Jewish sect after its decimation in the Nazi Holocaust, died Sunday, aged 92, a spokesman for the sect said.

Seventh in a direct line of Lubavitcher rabbis originally from Russia, Schneerson died at 1:50 a.m. (0550 GMT) Sunday at the Beth Israel Medical Centre here, spokesman Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky said.

He suffered a stroke in March 1992 and another last March, and died as result of the second attack, a spokeswoman for the hospital, Julie Jacobs, said.

Following his death, thousands of Lubavitchers from around the world began flooding into New York for the funeral. The ceremony was scheduled to be held Sunday with burial soon after.

Schneerson was childless, and had not appointed a successor.

Schneerson, who some believed was the Messiah, led the Lubavitcher sect, one of the most ultra-religious Hasidic groups with up to one

million followers and more than 1,000 cultural and educational centres around the world.

The white-bearded, blue-eyed Schneerson himself never claimed to be the Messiah but would tell followers that God's messenger was imminent.

Even those who did not consider Schneerson the Messiah regarded him with great esteem. Lubavitchers asked him who they should marry, where they should live, what jobs they should take.

Schneerson was educated at the Sorbonne in Paris, the first Lubavitcher to receive a secular education. Under his leadership, the Lubavitcher sect began looking outward, televising his leader's lengthy speeches in a variety of languages and preaching to Jews who are less orthodox.

Schneerson would often band out dollar bills on Sundays to faithful who lined up to see him. The bills themselves would sometimes end up as objects of veneration.

Although the Lubavitcher leader never set foot in Israel, his vocal opposition to

a land-for-peace swap with its Arab neighbours influenced policies in the Middle East. The sect came under criticism in 1988 for pushing for limits on Israel's practice of granting citizenship to Jews who had been converted by non-orthodox rabbis.

In 1990, another wave of criticism followed the Lubavitchers' blocking of a Labour Party attempt to form a government.

Schneerson's sect was at the centre of riots in August 1991 after a car in his motorcade struck and killed a seven-year-old black child. An Australian rabbinical student was stabbed to death in apparent retaliation.

Blacks and Hasidim engaged in street battles and rock and bottle-throwing matches for days before a semblance of peace was restored to the Brooklyn neighbourhood.

On March 1, Schneerson's sect the object of attack. Students who had visited him in the hospital were shot at in their van. One student was killed and a Lebanese national charged in the killing.

Northerners advance on Mukalla

(Continued from page 1)

officers said were caused by southern air raids. The empty casings of anti-aircraft rockets littered the sides of the road.

Military sources in Sanaa said northern warplanes Saturday intercepted southern jet fighters that violated an announced cease-fire and bombed them after they landed at a military airfield near Mukalla.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, claimed that "enormous losses" were inflicted on the airport. The claim could not

be verified.

Northern soldiers said two weeks ago they seized the seafloor east of Mukalla, site of the ruins of Qana and other ancient ports that marked the start of the trans-Arabian spice routes, and had been inching forward until the abortive cease-fire was announced last week.

Northern infantry Saturday took shelter in the mountain gullies from ear-splitting impacts of mortar barrages while soldiers above sniped at the southern lines apparently several kilometres away at

Burum.

Field rockets shot from rear lines on the plain below screamed overhead before crashing into mountainsides. Officers and soldiers in Mr. Saleh's forces alleged that the south had breached the cease-fire with air raids and artillery shelling and claimed they only were firing back in self-defence.

In addition to reaching Meifa-Hag east of Mukalla, northern troops have taken other coastal areas to the west between Mukalla and Aden, sources said earlier.



Palestinian women shout during a sit-in demonstration organised by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) at the Red Cross headquarters in Gaza City on Sunday. The women demanded the unconditional release of their sons from Israeli jails (AFP photo)

Questions remain on Arafat entry to Jericho

By Mariam M. Shaath with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will "travel to the autonomous areas of Jericho and Gaza within the next two weeks," a senior Palestinian official said in Cairo Sunday.

Nabil Shaath, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) top autonomy negotiator and a minister in the self-rule administration, said he would travel to Gaza on Tuesday to prepare for Mr. Arafat's trip.

"I'm going to Gaza to establish my permanent position as minister of international cooperation and planning," Dr. Shaath was quoted as saying in Cairo by AFP, after returning from a meeting of donor countries in Paris.

On Saturday, donor countries agreed to release \$42 million to the Palestinian authority and another \$720 million to fund development projects in the autonomous areas.

Mr. Arafat had threatened

to stay away from the West Bank town of Jericho and Gaza Strip, where self-rule has been launched, until promised funds were forthcoming.

With the agreement sealed in Paris, Mr. Arafat will now arrive "within two weeks," said Dr. Shaath.

However, confusion continued to reign over the timing of Mr. Arafat's return to the self-rule areas, as reports coming from Tunis, Jericho and Jerusalem indicated conflicting dates.

Tunis-based PLO sources gave two conflicting accounts of when the PLO chairman would enter Jericho. One PLO source working within the chairman's office said that Mr. Arafat would enter Jericho right after the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) ended their conference.

"We are talking about one week from now, either June 18-19."

Other sources in Tunis, however, said that Israel had not okayed the over 1,000-name list of people that would be accompanying Chairman Arafat. "The de-

tails have not yet been worked out and he can't go without his staff," said a senior FIDA official in Tunis.

The Israelis have also said they want a two-week notice which the PLO has not yet given, said the FIDA official. "I don't see an entry of Chairman Arafat before the end of June or even early July."

Israeli press and radio reports also had conflicting versions of when the chairman would return with the majority saying that he would return around June 18.

PLO sources have said that he would fly first from Tunis to Amman, with a possible stop-over in Cairo to bid farewell to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, before making a same gesture to His Majesty King Hussein in Jordan.

Palestinian sources in the occupied territories say that Israel will want to corridor off the Jericho enclave days before the chairman arrives.

"The Israelis will prevent West Bankers from welcoming Arafat in large numbers. They will limit it to the peo-

ple of Jericho," said a Palestinian spokesman at the Orient House in Jerusalem.

Israel says Palestinians in the occupied territories will also insist that if Faisal Husseini is to be a member of the Palestinian National Authority he will have to move his place of residency to Jericho and away from Jerusalem.

"The Israelis want to know the names of the 24 members of the Palestinian National Authority so they can single out the Jerusalemites in order to encourage their eviction from Jerusalem," said the Orient House spokesman.

Tunis-based PLO officials confirmed that Israel had said they needed to know the 24 names of people on the PNA before Chairman Arafat goes to Jericho.

Israel, meanwhile, stepped up the pressure on Mr. Arafat not to delay his arrival any further.

"Things have to get moving now and Arafat should arrive there as soon as possible, not just for a visit but to stay," said Israeli Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsur after a cabinet meeting.

Officials bombarded with queries on sales tax, explain modalities

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Industrialists on Sunday bombarded bureaucrats in charge of applying the sales tax with questions on the modalities of collecting the levy and what they described as ambiguities in the related legislation.

Most of the questions were answered in clear terms citing the technical and administrative aspects of the sales tax law, but the businessmen did not appear to be fully satisfied at the end of a two-and-a-half-hour encounter if only because they still question why the levy was enacted in the first place and find many of its aspects "confusing."

The interest of the businessmen in obtaining clear information on the tax, which went into force this month after more than 30 months of debate, was clear in that standing room was at a premium at the Chamber of Industry, auditorium where officials of the Customs and Sales Tax departments answered their queries.

However, as it appeared that the officials limited their

answers to the application of the law and its mechanisms, many seemed to lose interest since they appeared to be seeking clarifications to the language of the law as drawn up by the government and approved by Parliament last month after a heated debate.

The crowd that spilled over to the hallway of the Chamber of Industry was in itself a discouraging factor for many to understand the debate inside. Towards the end of the session they were holding their own debate in the corridor.

Most of the questions raised during the gathering were related to how an importer/manufacturer could avoid paying sales tax twice — first on imported raw material at the customs point and again when the finished product leaves the factory; how imported material to be used in manufacturing goods for exports will be handled; whether the levy is applicable to machinery and equipment used in the production of goods exempt from the levy; how the confidentiality of prices and suppliers could be

maintained in the process; what kind of books and entries are to be kept to satisfy the tax department; how classifications are made on the exempt products etc.

Two Ministry of Finance officials, Nazmi Abdullah, head of the Customs Department, and Saud Abdul Kader, head of the Sales Tax Department, provided most of the answers in terms of the technicalities of the sales tax law quoting the various articles in the legislation and how the authorities were translating those into modalities and what kind of administrative systems were being put into effect.

They said all importers, regardless of the volume of their imports, and all local manufacturers with an annual turnover of more than JD 100,000 should register with the Sales Tax Department and obtain a registration number, which will be the reference in all their dealings with the ministry.

Books have to be kept on how much tax was paid on imported raw materials so that claims for adjustment

against tax paid when the finished product enters the local market, they said.

In general, they pointed out, only importers and producers of items covered by the levy are directly concerned with the procedures. Wholesalers, distributors and retailers with no imports or production activities have no role to play since the importers' and producers' prices will include the tax when goods are sold to them.

Mr. Abdullah implicitly warned that the authorities would not tolerate these category of businesses levying sales from their clients. It was an indirect reference to widely reported practices by traders, following the enactment of the law, to charge higher prices from customers citing the "need" to pay the levy on every transaction in the country.

The officials said the Sales Tax Department had set up a hotline which is operational until 10 p.m. to answer all queries related to the tax. The line (No: 610074) could also be used by consumers to seek advice should the need arise.

Headaches brewing for Majali

(Continued from page 1)

Also, many opponents of the government are annoyed "with the personal reasons" for which some lawmakers are opposing the new Cabinet.

They say some legislators decided to go against the government because they were not approached to join it. "We will not fight a battle based on personal ambitions," a deputy opposed to the government said. He said that opposition should be governed by concern for the interest of the country and not limited ambitions of some.

But many deputies are determined to make their opposition to the government felt.

In Saturday's meeting at the House, 42 lawmakers decided to shelve the request for withholding the confidence from the gov-

ernment out of concern not to rock the boat at "this sensitive period through which the Kingdom is passing."

But they agreed to wait for the return of His Majesty King Hussein from his trip to the United States before sending him a letter in which they would explain the "shortcomings" of the government.

Dr. Majali is expected to leave for the United States Tuesday to join the King who will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton later this month.

Parliamentary sources say Dr. Majali will return to face a hostile legislature determined to assert its role in the power structure of the country.

"We will not allow a marginalisation of the role of the House," said Mr. Mansour.

Ghali asks Arafat to be patient

(Continued from page 1)

In Cairo, a PLO official said Saudi Arabia broke a taboo against the PLO at the donors' meeting in Paris by granting it \$10 million and pressing other Gulf Arab states to fund self-government in Gaza and

Jericho. Nabil Shaath, minister of international cooperation and planning in the new Palestinian authority, said the Sunday contribution gave an impetus to the international donors.

Deputies seek action on prices

(Continued from page 1)

work include the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), expressing their astonishment that the bureau's jurisdiction does not include such financial institutions.

Other deputies also called for the formation of an ad hoc higher court whose task will be trying those involved in the Audit Bureau's cases to act as the court of customs. They proposed that a technical committee be set up comprising workers at Jordanian universities and research centres to offer ideas on the

drafting of an amendment to the Audit Bureau's law within a period of three months. Such a committee, they said, should be presented with all information on "financial and administrative corruption" so as to base its works on them.

They also proposed that the House has a confidence vote for every minister whose ministry has corruption cases and that he should shoulder the personal responsibility if a higher specialised court finds that he/she misused his/her power.

COLUMN

Prince Iguru crowned Bunyoro king in Uganda

HOIMA, Uganda (AFP) — Prince Solomon Gafabusa Iguru was crowned the 27th king of Uganda's Bunyoro Kingdom, widely believed to be Africa's oldest monarchy, officials said. At a colourful ceremony in the western Ugandan town of Hoima, Iguru, 44, dressed in a golden robe and sandals made of buffalo and leopard skin, was declared king — or Omukama — by clan elders and members of the royal family. The ceremony was attended by President Yoweri Museveni, who allowed the revival of tribal monarchies last year, 26 years after ethnic kingdoms were outlawed by former President Milton Obote. Iguru's Babito dynasty dates back to the 14th century, when the kingdom is believed to have extended from Lake Tanganyika to Lake Turkana in northwestern Kenya. Iguru's coronation, scheduled to take place last year, was marred by a legal dispute with his brother, John Rukidi, who filed a court injunction against the accession, claiming Iguru was his father's illegitimate son. But a Kampala court in March ruled that Iguru was entitled to inherit the throne of his father, King Tito Winyo.

Former officer supports Clinton in sex scandal

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AFP) — A former Arkansas state trooper cited as a main witness by former state worker Paula Jones in a sexual harassment case against President Bill Clinton has filed court papers supporting Mr. Clinton. In a six-page deposition submitted to the federal court in Little Rock Friday, Danny Ferguson said that Paula Jones sought to meet then-governor Clinton in May 1991 at the Hotel Excelsior. The former trooper confirmed in the sworn statement that he had pointed Mr. Clinton's room out to Ms. Jones. But he said he pointed out the room from an elevator and returned to the second floor. The statement contradicts Ms. Jones who said Mr. Ferguson had handed her a note from Mr. Clinton inviting her to his hotel room, where the governor made sexual advances. Ms. Jones said the officer had tried to intimidate her by displaying his gun and waiting outside the room. Mr. Ferguson said he was not armed and the woman did not seem to be "offended" when she came back. He said Ms. Jones told him that "she would be the governor's girlfriend." The deposition reflects a change from Mr. Ferguson's earlier comments to the magazine American Spectator in January 1994 when he said he accompanied a young woman named Paula to the governor's room at Mr. Clinton's request. Ms. Jones is seeking \$700,000 in damages for violation of her civil rights. The president has categorically denied making sexual overtures to Ms. Jones and said he had no memory of a private meeting. He has acknowledged that as a public figure he could have met her.

Estranged wife of Redskins owner arrested

WASHINGTON (AP) — The estranged wife of Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke is in trouble with the law — again. Marlene Ramallo Chalmers Cooke was arrested early Saturday on charges of drunken driving and possession of a controlled substance, District of Columbia Police spokesman Joseph Gentile said. She was arrested after the car she was driving hit a parked motorcycle. Police also found a small amount of marijuana inside a pipe in her purse. She was released on her own recognisance. Witnesses said Mr. Cooke was arrested outside the trendy nightclub Zai in northwest Washington, but she had been inside. Her latest brush with the law comes barely two weeks after a judge dismissed unrelated drunken driving charges against her because prosecutors failed to produce enough evidence.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.